



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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## March 2014

### NEXT MEETINGS

**March 16, 2:00** First United Methodist Church  
**\*\*1:30 Show Committee meet prior to 3/16/14 regular meeting! \*\***

**April 6, 2:00** First United Methodist Church

### IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our March meeting! We will have a program on Bulldog paphs!! Come hear all about 'em!

### Meeting NOTES

We will have a brief Show Committee meeting at 1:30 this month, just prior to our normal meeting at 2.

### 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)

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**President's Message**

Hello All!

This has been a long, tough winter, but spring is just around the corner!! I saw my first robin this week! Their arrival is always a welcome sign that spring is soon to follow! So, hang in there! Warm days and sunshine are coming!

We will have brief Show Committee at 1:30 this month, just prior to our normal 2:00 meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! We'll need lots of "helping hands" at the Show; anyone who can pitch in, with even an hour or two of their time, would be greatly appreciated! No experience is necessary! We also need someone to take the lead in setting up our STOS Display for the show this year. No special training or talent required! There will be plenty of our members there to help, but we just need someone to volunteer to take the reins! So please consider offering your help!

On behalf of the organization, I'd like to send a SPECIAL THANK YOU to John Zygmunt for his wonderful contribution for our special raffle last month!!!!!!!!!! He spent countless hours preparing plants (all potted and labeled), repotting and mounting kits, pots, labels, etc. for our raffle last month, in an effort to help raise money for our club! There were enough items that everyone that bought tickets went home with a couple of different items!! It was a lot of work on John's part, and we sincerely appreciate his contribution!

Please note that if the weather does not cooperate for our meeting, members will be notified by e-mail or phone (if they don't have e-mail); so if the weather is extreme, please check your e-mail before the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 16<sup>th</sup>! Let's all meet, and discuss orchids as we usher in spring!!

Respectfully,  
Linda Mandeville  
STOS President

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**Minutes for February 16, 2014**

The Sunday, February 16th meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society was called to order by President Linda Mandeville around 2:15 pm. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and seconded. Jane Trey, Treasurer, told those members in attendance that the balance in our account is \$7,457.00. Members were reminded that the yearly membership fee of \$20.00 is due. Linda, our President, asked those members who have not paid the yearly dues, to please be current.

Old business consisted of a reminder that our April meeting will NOT be the 3rd Sunday of that month. Our April meeting, instead, will be on the 6th of April. The change of date will give us an opportunity to finalize arrangements for our STOS Show at the Oakdale Mall. Reminder: Show dates are April 26th and 27th.

Previous to today's meeting, the Show Committee met to finalize and update information pertinent to our April Show. Anne Tinker, Show Committee Head, told us, that Parkside Orchids has agreed to be a vendor

for our Show. Bob Rudin asked for volunteers to man the information table on the Show dates, in two hour increments. We also need members to help set up and tear down the tables. Please help, on the Friday afternoon-evening (from around 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm) as needed to get our show tables up and decorated. Please volunteer.

We then moved on to new business.

Paula Matienzo gave those in attendance, a bit of very useful information with regard to knowing the difference between a hybrid and a species by its name, for instance. A hybrid does not have Latin or Greek in its name, most likely. Species are lower case in spelling and hybrid, then would begin with a capital letter.

Next, John Zygmunt showed us a preview of the wonderful items, orchid related, as well as orchids that he so generously donated for today's auction. All proceeds benefit the society's financial obligations. John brought orchids, pots, plant chips, line to mount orchids, clips and much more. Everyone who bought a ticket, probably went home with something. Thank you, John!

We next broke for refreshments and the auction.

The show table was next. John Zygmunt, Bob Rudin and Peter O'Connell showed us several orchids that were beautiful. Mr. Rudin was nice enough to impart a little history of his orchid beauty, noting, that he uses a system of "index cards" on which he records purchase dates, blooming time, and particular notes of interest.

Lastly as we were finishing our refreshments, which were lovingly provided by our members, Mr. Bob Howe, Program Coordinator, introduced our guest speaker. Mr. Ryan Georgia, formerly of Binghamton and currently in the Ithaca area, shared with us some information regarding "Fun with Orchids and Orchid Micropropagation", the topic of today's presentation.

Mr. Georgia, recently returned from Borneo and currently, with a business partner, runs a lab in Ithaca. The definition of Micropropagation was explained as: "All of the methods used to propagate plants under sterile conditions". Our speaker talked about tissue culture. That includes multiplication of cells and plant cloning which is endless. If one were to attempt such a project at home level, one could use hydrogen peroxide as possible agent for keeping conditions sterile. He said it is possible to regenerate over and over again, dividing clumps of tissue. Using this type of method, one could see several hundred plants in as little as 8 months to a year. (saleable size plants.) It's important to use fresh seeds. At home, you can use flask and sterile containers. Requirements include micro and macro nutrients as well as vitamins.

Growers who have an interest can refer to a book by Mr. Aaron Hicks, entitled "Orchid Seed Germination".

Mr. Georgia spoke of the fact that there are more than 63 orchids that are native to New York State.

Using a slide presentation, our speaker showed step-by-step seed germination and emphasized repeatedly, during his presentation, the need to keep a clean growing box...(sterile). A successful growing relationship requires fungi.

A point of interest is that *SOME* orchids, not unlike the Venus Flytrap, are carnivores! As an added benefit, at the conclusion of Mr. Georgia's presentation, he offered to answer questions and on request schedule request a visit to his business. Information with regard to his web site was provided.

Mr. Bob Howe thanked Mr. Ken Hull, who, suggested Mr. Ryan Georgia as a possible speaker. We learned something new about our relationship with orchids, today.

Our meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Browne

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### Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that indicated we currently have an account balance of \$7,457.00.

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### Monthly Show Table

#### John Zygmunt:

- 1) *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*
- 2) *Masdevallia tridens*
- 3) *Dinema polybulbon*
- 4) **Cattleya** Springdrum "Volcano Dream"
- 5) *Oncidium Heaven Scent*

#### Peter O'Connell:

- 1) *Paphiopedilum Maudiae*
- 2) *Masdevallia Panguena* (*Masdevallia peristeria* x *Masdevallia uniflora*) \*

(\* New hybrid cross registered on 25/10/12 by Ecuagenera

#### Robert Rudin:

- 1) **Rlc.** *Glorybound* (*Rlc.* Owen Holmes x *Rlc.* American Heritage)

Changes in taxonomy, as well as difficulties with spelling, necessitate that authorities in the study of orchids be consulted. Hence names of hybrids - those which are not of Greek or Latin derivation, such as *Glorybound* - have been checked against the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registry. It is not the hybrid name that changes, but the genus.

On the other hand, names of species - those which are completely of Greek or Latin origin -- have been searched in the Kew World Checklist of Monocotyledons. Parts of plant names appearing in boldface represent corrections in spelling or additional information found in these databases that may be of interest to the grower.

Paula Matienzo

~\* ~\*

### **March Program**

Don't miss this months' meeting! We will have a program, entitled: "The Story of little *bellatulum*" and focuses on the difficulty of breeding and growing red complex paphs, also known as the bulldog paph. Come and learn and enjoy!!

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### **Interpreting and Using Cultural Advice**

**(What do "Grow Cool to Hot" and "Full Sun to Deep Shade" mean?)**

If you are like me, we seek out a lot of our orchid culture information online (I always go to Jay Pfahl's orchidspecies.com website fist.). In those online references, you'll often see very broad ranges of cultural conditions mentioned, sort-of like my subtitle above. So what is that telling you?

Many interpret that type of cultural guidance to mean the plant can handle pretty much anything. However, there are more things to be considered when interpreting that information.

Knowing that orchids are very highly evolved, and that each has its own "niche", we should consider that it may mean that the populations in nature may come from a wide variety of different conditions, not that an individual plant will tolerate all of the above. You may have one that grows hot, while another might prefer cold, depending upon its source.

Good references will tell you geographically where the plant originates, and at what altitude it can typically be found. The "where" part can give you some idea of the typical temperatures and humidity levels, as well as possible seasonality, but the "altitude" part may lend information about changing the conditions and adding day-night variations to the mix.

Let's start with seasonality. Species native to equatorial regions may be exposed to pretty much the same temperatures and humidity levels all year. Both will tend to be higher than those seen in more temperate regions, but local conditions can still vary. A plant growing farther from the equator, on the other hand, will see seasonal variation (and likely lower levels) of both, and changes in light levels as well. We are aware that light intensity decreases as one moves from summer to winter, but plants growing in deciduous forests may actually see an increase in light in the winter.

Then there is diurnal range - that phalaenopsis species growing close to sea level near the equator will likely see similar daily highs and lows year round. whereas a Mexican laelia growing at high elevation might see highs in the 80°s and lows in the upper 30°s! The Baker's orchidculture.com website is a fantastic place to get such information on species.

OK, so how do we deal with such information?

First, learn before you buy! Don't acquire a plant that simply cannot tolerate your conditions. However, if you simply have got to have it, start somewhere in the middle, growing the plant in intermediate temperatures and partial shade for several weeks to a couple of months, and observe. Are the leaves getting darker? Consider increasing the light levels. If not, but is the new growth is elongating, getting "leggy"? It's probably too warm.

Keep heat dissipation in mind, as well. A plant grown brighter will absorb more solar energy, and will turn more of it into heat, so it may need to be grown cooler to compensate.

With patience, experimentation, and good powers of observation, you will likely find the "right" conditions for such wide-ranging plants, and can probably "push your limits" as you gain experience.

Courtesy of First Ray Orchids

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### Upcoming Meetings

**March 16** ~ The Story of little bellatulum"

**April 26/27** ~ STOS Orchid Show!

**April 6** ~ Pre-Show Meeting & Orchid Auction!

Please remember that these are tentative and subject to last minute change.

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### Refreshment Volunteers

More than one person may sign up for an individual meeting so that the cost and work can be shared among members. Please note that volunteers are still needed for several upcoming meetings, so be sure to sign up if you haven't already. Just let Jane Trey know if you can help. Her contact info is on the front page.

Current refreshments list includes:

**March 16** ~ We need your help!

**April 6** ~ We need your help!

**April 26/27** ~ STOS Orchid Show