

Southern Tier Orchid Society

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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AOS Representative

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

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Show Chair
Anne (Tinker) Quain

Web Page

http://www.storchidsociety.com/

January 2015

NEXT MEETINGS

January 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

**1:00 Board of Directors/Show Committee meet prior to 1/18/14 regular meeting! **

February 15, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

IN THIS ISSUE

 Don't miss our January meeting! Our guest speaker will be Dennis Sanders, giving us a presentation on "Orchids of Equador"!

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

**Note: <u>In the event of a weather emergency</u>, please check your email the morning of the meeting. If nothing is received from STOS, the meeting is on. Likewise, those who receive the newsletter by regular mail will receive a call from one of us. If any questions, members may also call one of the Board Members.

Any contributions, articles, and/or photos for the monthly newsletter are appreciated! Please submit any inputs by the first week of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

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's Message

Happy New Year 2015 to you all!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday, and wish you a very happy and healthy year ahead! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 2014 Holiday Party! We owe Pete O'Connell our sincere appreciation for all his efforts to order and deliver beautiful, flowering orchids for us to take home as a special holiday treat! THANK YOU, PETE!

At the December meeting, the membership voted on the 2015 officers. We have a few retaining their office for 2015 (Jane Trey as Treasurer (thank you, Jane!), and myself as President), and also a few new officers taking the helm in 2015: Carol Vargason will serve as Vice President and Carol Brunnabend as Secretary. I appreciate your willingness to contribute to our club, and look forward to working with you in 2015! That being said, we all greatly appreciate the contributions of our two members vacating office; I wish to send a special "thank you", on behalf of our entire club, to Bob Howe who faithfully served as the Vice President and program coordinator, and Carol Browne, who has served faithfully as our Secretary for several years! Thank you so very much for all your hard work and support that you've given our club! We'll miss you as officers, but will look forward to seeing you each month at our meetings!

I would like to encourage all members to participate in future meetings to make our club and also this year's show a success. We'll need to work diligently this year to increase our membership and attendance at our monthly meetings. I welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving our club, and keeping our meetings well-attended.

We will have a Board Meeting and brief Show Committee meeting @ 1:00, just before our next general meeting on January 18th. The bylaws require that we meet no fewer than two times a year--Sept. and Jan. One item on the agenda will be the budget for 2015. The Show Committee and Executive Board meeting is open to the general membership. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting is welcome!

Also—just a reminder to all that the annual dues are due. Annual dues are \$20 per member or family. An application form is available on the website. I will also bring forms at the next meetin

I look forward to seeing you on January 18th! Let's get this year off to a great start!

Respectfully, Linda Mandeville STOS President

Minutes for December 21

The Southern Tier Orchid Society conducted its' final meeting of the year today. Amongst tables of food, orchids, and a membership full of good cheer, we celebrated the end of another "Orchid year". Linda Mandeville, our President, called our meeting to order at approximately 2:15 PM. Linda graciously thanked Mr. Robert Howe, the society's Vice President, for doing such a wonderful job in her absence at the November meeting. She then thanked Mr. Peter O'Connell, for the beautiful and well cared for orchids, he obtained, to be given away today to the society's members. Each 2014 paid-up member was given a

ticket to redeem for an orchid as numbers on said tickets were called. Thank you, Peter for all your work this year.

The first order of business today was the approval of last months' minutes. Minutes were approved and seconded by the membership.

Jane Trey, Treasurer, gave a report of our financial status. Currently the STOS has a balance of \$9.142.00.

At this time, Mr. John Zygmunt gave us information on how we are faring with regard to our balance sheet. Changes have been made to the way we secure funds for operating needs. We have kept speaker fees to a manageable number. As an example of member generosity, Pete O'Connell gave a "gratis" speech and donated his fee to the society. Members such as Peter, have also gone out of their way to add whatever expertise they have and expected no reward in return. All of the above (and so much more) have impacted our healthy bottom line and is a good indication of a healthy 2015 and hopefully, many years hence.

Old business continued. The membership, having been well prepared for an election of new officers for 2015, selected the following Board of Directors. None opposed. All approved of the following:

President Linda Mandeville Vice President Carol Vargason Treasurer Jane Trey

Secretary Carol Brunnabend Board Member Anne Tinker Quain

President Mandeville reminded us that January's STOS meeting will be an hour earlier than the 2:00 PM start time. An Officers' meeting will be held. All members are invited to attend. Among discussion topics will be the STOS Orchid Show at the Oakdale Mall on the first weekend in May.

Our official meeting ended, with heartfelt wishes for a great 2015. We then commenced with eating all the wonderful, delicious, and lovingly prepared dishes brought by each and every member.

Lastly, we handed in our "winning tickets" for a beautiful orchid as a reminder of our "Holiday Party" of 2014!

Thank you, one and all for a successful 2014! Happy Holidays! See you next year!

The festivities commenced around 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Browne, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey, treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$9,142.00 in the treasury.

January Program

Be sure to attend our January meeting! Dennis Sanders will be offering a presentation on "Orchids of Equador". Mr. Sanders is from Newburgh, and is an orchid grower; he will be providing a slide presentation of a recent trip to Equador, which was guided by Equagenera. Dennis will be bringing orchids for sale, and in addition, will also display some of his plants at our show table.





The Brassia Orchid, or Spider Orchid, is another great genus of the Orchid family. They produce medium-sized spectacular flowers that resemble spiders. In the wild, this attracts spider-killing wasps, a method of spreading pollen from one plant to another.

The plant itself takes up a large amount of space with its sprawling spikes and flowers. A single plant will typically have up to 20 blooms at a time in a wide variety of colors. With the introduction of hybrid versions, you can find this flower in cream, brown, red, spotted yellow, or green.

The Spider Orchid blooms from spring to summer naturally, but there have been reports of them blooming in the winter indoors. With the right growing conditions, you can force any Orchid to bloom any time you want.

Known for the intense scent that they give off while in bloom, these Orchids are a real attention-grabber; they will fill a room with a very distinct aroma in no time after the blooms open.

Your Spider Orchid is relatively easy to care for in relation to other Orchids. Follow our care guide below and you should have no problem at all.

Sunlight

The Spider Orchid prefers low light levels when not in bloom. A shady place that gets a small amount of indirect sunlight during the day is perfect. When it's ready to bloom, give it plenty of indirect sunlight to replicate the increase in sun during the spring.

Water

You will need to water this plant thoroughly, flushing the excess salts out in the process. The amount of time between watering can vary greatly depending on what you are using as a growing medium and how warm the spot is. Allow the growing medium to almost completely dry out before watering your Spider Orchid again.

Humidity

This Orchid needs high levels of humidity if you want it to thrive. You will want to stay between 60% and 70% all day for best results. It might be a good idea to place the pot in a tray of pebbles with water so that the water can slowly evaporate.

Temperature

The Spider Orchid is natural to Central America, so it needs tropical temperatures year round. They like to be around 65 degrees during the day and drop down to 60 degrees at night. Anywhere around this will work fine.

Fertilizer

Feed your Spider Orchid every two weeks with a good Orchid fertilizer. This will help it continue to thrive throughout the year. Stop fertilizing after the blooms die, and then start up again when you start to see new growth

Tips:

- Repot your Spider Orchid every couple of years, when you notice the growing medium starting to break down. When the growing medium starts to fall apart, it holds too much water and can cause rot problems. Find a pot that is only slightly larger than the one you are using. Orchids do not like to expand like most other pots because they are not naturally designed to live in dirt.
- Let your Orchid rest for a few weeks after they are finished blooming. Put them in an area with slightly cooler temperatures and lower light for 6 8 weeks. This gives them time to rest and get ready to start growing again.
- Take note of anything different that you find on the instructions that come with your plant. Hybrid species can have additional care requirements that you may have to take into consideration.

- Pick up your watering routine a little while they are in bloom so that the flowers last longer. Your Spider Orchid will appreciate more water to help keep them hydrated while they are hard at work.

(Article Courtesy of Orchidplus.com)

Upcoming Meetings

January 18 ~ Dennis Sanders/"Orchids of March 15 ~ TBA

Equador" April 19 ~ TBA

February 15 ~ TBA

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:

January 18 ~ We Need Your Help!

March 15 ~ We Need Your Help!

February 15 ~ We Need Your Help!

April 19 ~ We Need Your Help!