



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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<http://www.storchidsociety.com/>

November 2019

NEXT MEETINGS:

November 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

December 15, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

- Don't miss our November 17th meeting - Glen Decker, formerly of Piping Rock Orchids will be our guest speaker!

Meeting NOTES

Meeting location: November 17th, we will meet **upstairs** in the First United Methodist Church:

[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 5th 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

Eat this!

In Wegmans grocery store, at the end of the produce department is the flower shop. Wegmans has a respectable offering of orchids to buy.

Considering the orchid department is at the end of the produce department, it is reasonable to assume that they are edible. Let us consult the all-powerful internet.....

- At 2PM Sunday, November 17th
- It will be in the regular upstairs room.
- Enter from the McKinley Ave door. First United Methodist Church, 53 McKinley Ave, Endicott, NY. Glen Decker, previously of Piping Rock Orchids will be our informative Guest speaker.



Indeed there are edible orchids for your consumption. They are not just pretty faces. From Amazon Prime; Purple/White "Edible" Orchid Flowers "The Perfect Pack" (50 Count Pack) by Perfect Image Orchids, Inc. Price: \$39.95 & FREE Shipping ,Edible Orchids/Flowers, Cocktail/Food/Dessert Garnish, Gourmet Produce, Catering/Bakery Supplies/Decoration, Cake/Cupcake/Dessert Topper.

Product Description; Enjoy our gorgeous 50 EDIBLE Dendrobium Orchid blooms freshly hand-packed in an earth-friendly compostable clam-shell. The quick, easy and affordable way to add color and class to all of your food service presentations.

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH ORCHIDS FROM THE FLORAL INDUSTRY. Use our fresh Orchids to enhance the beauty of appetizers, entrees, desserts, and cocktails! Perfect Image Orchids, Inc. is based in Half Moon Bay, CA, We offer FREE 2Day shipping on all orders. After delivery, the orchids are to be placed immediately in the refrigerator. For best results, soak the edible orchids in a bowl of water with ice for two hours and then dry with paper towel or cooling fan, proceed to place the orchids inside the refrigerator once done drying.

From <https://orchidrepublic.com> ; Orchids, specifically the flower petals, are reportedly gives off that fresh and crisp flavor similar to leafy vegetables, such as endive or watercress. ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture has enumerated a variety yummy dishes orchids have been used in different parts of the world.

- **Asian cuisine** – Soft-cane dendrobium orchids, which are native to many countries in Asia. It’s used in stir-fry, sauce recipes, and boiled tea.
- **Orchid Tempura** – Thais roll dendrobium orchid flowers in egg and flour batter and then deep fry them in cooking oil.
- **Orchid salad and orchid candy** – In Hawaii, they use orchid flowers as a featured ingredient for fresh salads and coat them in sugar for dessert.
- **Wild orchid drink** – In Turkey, salep powder, which is made from dried tubers and Orchis, a genus of wild orchids. They mix salep powder with hot milk and other flavorful spices like nutmeg and cinnamon.
- **Orchid ice cream** – Otherwise known as dondurma, this chewy Turkish ice cream is another sweet concoction made of salep.

Like many edible flowers, orchids are also generally used as an appetizing garnish for drinks and salad dishes.

Vanilla from Orchids

Ari Novy, the deputy executive director of U.S. Botanic Gardens in Washington, says vanilla is the most popular edible orchid. These orchids are native to Central and South America. But today, Madagascar leads the production of vanilla beans.

Yes, the very vanilla, which flavors the delightful desserts we crave for, comes from orchids. They are extracted from vine-like orchids of the same name grows up to 30 feet long. The Vanilla planifolia orchid variety is the only orchid propagated for industrial food production.

Sources: <https://attra.ncat.org/calendar/question.php/are-orchids-edible>
<https://www.voanews.com/a/not-just-for-show-orchids-have-medicinal-food-purposes-too/1861412.html>

At the November meeting nominations for next year's officers will solicited. The Election will be at the December meeting. New officers begin their positions in January. Expect fresh ideas, new enthusiasm, and continuation of our informative meetings.

With input and discussion at the October meeting, attached to this newsletter mailing, is the updated revised Bylaws that require membership approval at the November meeting.

Love is the language of Orchids. All around the world.

May the best be yours
Every day.
Ben Cabot

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Minutes-October 20th Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Ben Cabot at 2:01. Last meetings minutes were approved. Jane, our Treasurer, reported that we made a profit on our auction last month. (4 plants were leftover, one was put in today's raffle and the other 3 sold at the meeting). Ben informed us that we switched our bank to the Empower Federal Credit Union which not only saves us a \$4.00 monthly fee but has a much better interest rate. Anyone can join this Credit Union, they have a branch in Johnson City.

Committees:

- Paula Palmer, our new librarian, will be labeling all of the books in our collection, so if you borrow one you won't get it mixed up with your own books. Ben reminded us that all members may check out a book at any meeting and return it the next month. Bernice, our AOS rep, brought the latest issues of the AOS journal. These may also be checked out similar to books. Our website overhaul has not made any progress. Joe has been too busy with other, paying customers. Our Facebook person, Marissa, will no longer be able to post for us, so we need a new person to keep our Facebook page current. Please see Ben if you are interested.
- There was a brief discussion about moving our meeting location back to the Vestal library but that idea was discarded. Several members had been receiving nuisance emails seemingly from other club members but that seems to have stopped.
- Ben also handed out the newest version of the bylaws.

New Business:

- Our November speaker is Glen Decker, formerly of Piping Rock Orchids. He sold his business but he will still come and speak on Paphiopedilum culture and will bring plants for sale.
- We are hoping to host an AOS-judged show on either April 18/19 or 25/26 at the Roberson Museum, which is happy to have us return.

- It's time to appoint a nominating committee for the elections in December. No existing officer can be on this committee. If you are interested, see Ben. Ben will not be able to be President next year so we are in need of a new President and one more board member.
- We are hoping to have a club trip to a large orchid show in New York or Philadelphia next spring. The club will pay for part of the trip.
- Our old laptop is in need of replacement. Ben will take it to Best Buy and have them recover everything on it and pick out a new laptop.
- There was a Habitat for Humanity Orchid sale on October 9 at Binghamton University. One club member was involved.

Show Table:

- After the break we held the raffle and several members showed off their plants at the show table. We also sold the last 3 orchids from the auction.

Presentation:

- Luis Matienzo, one of our clubs founding members and long time orchid enthusiast, gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Art and Craft of Orchid Growing'.

The general meeting was followed by an Executive Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Bayles (for Linda Mandeville, Secretary)

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Phragmipedium Noirmont 'Elektra' AM/AOS

November 2019

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November Presentation – Glen Decker

We are so very fortunate this month to have Glen Decker, former owner of Piping Rock Orchids, with us as our guest speaker. Glen will be offering a presentation on Paphiopedilum culture. As an added bonus, Glen will be bringing some of his beautiful plants for us to purchase for our individual collections.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this terrific program!

PROGRAM NOTE: **Glen Decker** began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen was former owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway New York. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book.

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Why Orchids Need a Drop in Nighttime Temperature

By Sue Bottom

Have you ever wondered why all the books say that many orchids need a 10 to 20 F (about 5.5–11 C) drop in temperature from day to night? Lower nighttime temperatures are critical for good growth and flowering because there must be a proper balance between photosynthesis and respiration for a plant to grow and bloom well.

ORCHIDS BY DAY During the day, your plants are busy:

- Making Food. Your plants are busy using solar energy in a process called photosynthesis. Light is absorbed by the chlorophyll in the chloroplasts and the carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is converted into chemical energy in the form of sugars and starches.
- Using Food. Your plants consume their energy reserves in a process known as respiration. The food reserves of sugars and starches are used to maintain existing tissue as well as produce new growths, flowers and seeds.

ORCHIDS BY NIGHT At night, photosynthesis stops but growth and respiration continue drawing on the energy reserves created during the day. Respiration occurs more quickly at higher temperatures than at lower temperatures. At lower temperatures, it is possible for the energy consumption to be less than energy production, allowing the plant to store energy for future use, including flowering. If night temperatures are too high, food is used faster than it can be made so growth is poor and orchids do not flower or they flower poorly.

PROVIDING LOWER NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES Providing cooler nighttime temperatures can be problematic if you are growing indoors in a climate-controlled environment. Perhaps the best alternative is a programmable thermostat or manually turning the thermostat down at night. Orchids growing by a bright window will be a few degrees warmer during the day from solar gain and orchids growing by an open window may be a few degrees cooler at night in winter. Where possible, you can provide lower nighttime temperatures if you grow your orchids outdoors or on a screened porch during the warm season.

FLOWER INDUCTION BY NIGHTTIME CHILLING Many orchids require a significant day–night temperature difference to induce flowering. Winter-blooming phalaenopsis require a 15 F (8.3 C) drop in nighttime temperature for two or three weeks to initiate their flower spikes. Cymbidiums and dendrobiums can require an even larger temperature difference. Dendrobium crumenatum is an interesting species that opens all its blooms simultaneously eight or nine days after a thunderstorm; some believe this is a result of the cooling effect of the evaporation of rainwater.

ZYGOPETALUMS CRAVE COOLER NIGHTS I have long loved zygopetalums with their bluish purple, green and bronze flowers and incredible fragrance, although they have tended to be very short-lived in my care. I have tried growing them in a wide variety of light conditions and potting mixes. Knowing that they like cooler conditions than we have in St. Augustine, I tried the old grower’s trick of growing them in sphagnum moss in a clay pot dropped in a second clay pot to keep them a little cooler from the water evaporating from the porous clay. They grew better, but still struggled. I was telling Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids my tale of woe and he told me to get them out of the greenhouse and under the shade of a tree. That provided a few extra degrees of nighttime cooling and the growth rate exploded over the summer. I was treated to more zygo blooms than ever before.

Understanding your plant’s metabolism gives insight into how best to grow it. Cooler nighttime temperatures allow your orchid to store, rather than consume the food it manufactured during the day. This stored energy can then be used by the plant to produce flowers. Next to insufficient light, insufficient day to night temperature change is the most likely cause of your orchid failing to bloom. If your plants are growing well and you are sure they are getting enough of the right kind of light, try dropping your night temperatures by a few degrees. You may be pleasantly surprised by the increase in flowers your plants produce. (November 2014, ORCHIDS, page 654.Reprinted with permission).

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Upcoming Meetings

- November 17 ~ Glen Decker
- December 15 ~ Holiday Party
- January 19 ~ TBA
- February 16 ~ TBA

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