



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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### Newsletter & Membership

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### Web Page

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

## November 2015

### NEXT MEETINGS

**November 15, 2:00** First United Methodist Church of Endicott

**\*\*Note:** Board of Directors meeting at 1:00 on 11/15

**December 20, 2:00** First United Methodist Church of Endicott

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Don't miss our November meeting! We are fortunate to have John Dunkleberger as our guest speaker!!

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates for 2016 at the November meeting.



### 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)

## President's Message

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## Minutes for October 18

Linda Mandeville, President, called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

First order of business was the approval of September minutes which were approved and seconded by the membership.

Jane Trey, Treasurer, reported we have \$8,727.00 in the STOC treasury.

Old Business - Linda thanked Jane Trey, Carol Vargason and John Zygmunt for their help setting up and tearing down the orchid display at the CNYOS orchid show in Baldwinsville. We did receive some ribbons in our display.

New Business: Today's meeting will consist of:

- Members comments on the future of the STOS:
- Orchid bidding and raffle:
- Elect a nominating committee to fill up-coming officers' vacancies and to present a slate of 2016 officers and board members at the November meeting for a December vote. We need candidates for President and Vice President.

Pete O'Connell and Luis Matienzo agreed to be on the nominating committee.

Jane Trey and Carol Brunnabend agreed to keep their respective duties of treasurer and secretary.

Some members brought in their orchids for display.

Comments from the members:

John stated:

- The society has about 42 paid members and typically only about 14-15 show up for meetings.
- Few members do most the work of the club
- Members may decide to discontinue the club.
- Auctions are the biggest money maker. Last auction we lost money as attendance was low.
- One option may be to not have speakers at meetings
- He discussed the budget breakdown (financially).
- Possibly increase dues, and have no auctions - only speakers.

Luis discussed the beginning history of the society.

- May have to go to one auction a year instead of two.
- Possibly downsize the fall auction and increase the spring auction before the annual show

Pete discussed the number of plants for our auctions.

- All members must step up and do their part.
- Members can also donate orchids and put them in the auction. The member will get half of the money the orchids sells for.

Other suggestions from the members:

- Let the society know what type of orchids the members like to grow.
- Have discussions at the meetings on how to grow, feed and pot (materials) orchids.
- Call new members to remind them of upcoming meeting. Paula Matienzo will volunteer to do this.
- Contact newspapers on meetings. Carol Vargason volunteered to look into this option.

- The society website was discussed.
- Possibly have an orchid show with no judges, or decide whether or not to have a show
- Put together a questionnaire for members to voice their opinions as to where to go with the society.

Many decisions will be made at the Dec. meeting.

After taking a break for refreshments, the auction and raffle was held. All orchids were sold.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

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### Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey, treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$8727.00 in the treasury.

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### November Speaker

Be sure to attend our November meeting! Mr. John Dunkleberger, one of the renowned AOS orchid judges, will be speaking at our November meeting! His topic will be *Oncidium* Breeding. He will also be bringing some plants for sale! I'm sure his talk will be most enlightening, so please be sure to join us!!

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### Monthly Show Table

#### Greta De rocher:

- 1) **Cynoches** (Golden Showers 'HOI' = *Cyc. herrenhusanum* x *cyc. chlorochilon*)
- 2) *Paph. fairreianum* 'Green Giant' x *paph. Hilo Jewel* '#10' (not registered with RHS)
- 3) *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*
- 4) *Miltonia spectabilis* var *moreliana*
- 5) Beallara. Tahoma Glacier

#### Robert Rudin

- 1) Lc. HawYuan Angel (An old cross (1996) but not registered with RHS).

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 *Cynoches* Golden Showers - 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.

Luis and Paula Matienzo.

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## **Growing Healthy Orchids**

Healthy orchids are the result of a carefully planned culture regimen in which the plants are observed on a regular basis and grown in a clean environment. Many ailments can be quickly detected and dealt with before they affect other specimens in a collection. A few minutes spent each week checking plants is the best prescription for a clean bill of health.

An effective program begins with the purchase of vigorous orchids. Invest in specimens bearing green leaves devoid of black or yellow marks. The plants should be securely rooted in a mix that is firm, not mushy and acid.

Isolate new purchases for two weeks before adding them to a collection to prevent any insects or diseases from infecting other orchids. If any ill effects are noticed, take the plant back to the seller and ask for advice, or request a replacement.

Maintain a spotless growing area. Remove faded flowers and dead leaves promptly. Water early enough in the day so the plants and flowers dry by night. Do not let puddles of water accumulate. Operate fans or open windows (during warm weather) to provide adequate ventilation. Fertilize enough, but not too much, or weak growth, which is susceptible to insects and diseases, will result.

When an infection is noticed, act swiftly. Identify the culprit. Take the plant (or a sample leaf or flower) to an orchid society meeting, the nursery where the plant was purchased or a county cooperative extension service. Wrap the sick specimen in a plastic bag to prevent it from infecting plants at the destination. However, do not leave it in an unvented car in the summer, or an unheated car in the winter, or additional injury may result. The ailment will most likely be one of four basic kinds.

### **Insects**

Aphids, scale, mealybugs, thrips and spider mites are a few of the insects that attack orchids. The first three are easily seen; the last pair require the aid of a magnifying lens. Talk with local orchid growers to learn how to identify these insects and their symptoms. New growth and buds are common attack points. Understand the insects' life cycles and apply repeated doses of a control to eliminate all phases. Soft, cottony mealybugs on this new paphiopedilum growth will deform the leaves. Prompt action is necessary to eliminate the insects.

### **Diseases**

Fungi and bacteria injure orchids. A warm and humid environment with inadequate ventilation creates the perfect atmosphere in which fungi and bacteria thrive, causing soft spots, sunken areas on leaves, root rot and other ailments. Inadequate air circulation and damp conditions can induce Botrytis cinera, which ruins flowers with its fine speckling.

### **Viruses**

Orchids are prone to viruses that can cause flowers to be abnormal. Typical symptoms are streaking of color and deformity of flowers, and irregular light and dark streaks in leaves. When uncertain if a virus is to blame, consult a professional. Businesses exist that will test orchids for the presence or absence of virus. Destroy virus-infected plants; viruses can infect other orchids and cause harm.

Viruses are spread by animal insect vectors, and by improper hygiene, such as ineffective sterilization techniques on recycled pots and clips, and cutting tools. When severing a flower cluster or dividing orchids, always sterilize the cutting tool by passing the blade through a flame or dipping in alcohol. Use disposable gloves on each plant to be divided.

### **Physiological Disorders**

An imbalance of water, light and temperature creates symptoms of problems. For example, overwatering can cause roots to rot, and, because the plant cannot absorb water, the pseudobulbs to shrivel. The effect is noticed on the pseudobulbs, but the cause is in the medium. Frequently, a change in the care program will solve physiological ailments.

