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May 2014

NEXT MEETINGS

****May 18, 2:00** First United Methodist Church of Endicott

***May 18: <u>Annual Repotting Session!</u>**

**** June-August:** Summer hiatus

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- **May 18th- Repotting Clinic!**

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 !

Meeting NOTES

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

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President's Message

*****CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL***** for a GREAT SHOW at the Oakdale Mall!! Thank you to all our members who were such a great help in making this year's show a success!! We couldn't do it without you!! Thanks to all those who helped -- from advertising, planning, set-up, creating our display, and Plant registration on Friday night; clerking, breakfast and lunch coordination, and hosting judges/vendors on Saturday; Member table coverage all weekend long; and clean up on Sunday afternoon! (I think that was one of the quickest tear-down/clean-up ever!!)

Everything ran very smoothly and efficiently (with just a couple of minor hiccups), and we all worked very hard, and worked as a team, to make the show run so smoothly! I sincerely appreciate all your hard work and effort, and willingness to pitch in wherever needed! We seem to learn a little more each year! If there is anything in particular, or any ideas that you have for next years' show, please make a note, and bring it up at our May meeting! This way, we can improve things just a little bit each year. As we gain more knowledge and experience, and learn from any oversights, our future shows are bound to be better and better each year!

I also wish to thank you all for bringing in so many of your beautiful, blooming orchids for our display! Congratulations to all of you who went home with ribbons---and there were many!! Pete O'Connell received an **AOS Award for his beautiful Masdevalia panguena!** Congratulations, Pete!!

I am pleased that we signed up 4 new members and 3 returning members at the show. We would've liked to have had more sign-ups, but we'll keep at it!! Remember, new members are always welcome, so please continue to spread the word to your friends!!

Our May meeting (May 18th) will be our traditional repotting clinic. Anyone who has an overgrown plant that needs dividing, bring it in. It will be divided and repotted (and typically, the choice division goes home with the owner, while the other divisions will be auctioned/raffled off to the membership.) (Remember, the purpose of the repotting clinic is not to repot your orchids at the clubs' expense, but to show you how to do it!) The club will provide media for demonstrating purposes and for repotting club purchased seedlings.

Members are also reminded that May is the deadline for paying your dues. Members who have not paid by May 1 will be removed from the members list and will not receive the newsletter. Of course, we would always welcome past members back.

See you all on May 18th! (Remember—we'll be meeting downstairs this month for the repotting session—so remember to use the back entrance!)

Respectfully,

Linda Mandeville

STOS President

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Minutes for April 6, 2014

This afternoon around 1:45 PM, the STOS Show Committee conducted a meeting in anticipation of finalizing and smoothing out any issues regarding our Orchid Show which will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday, the 26th and 27th of April.

The few remaining issues that were discussed allowed us to feel that preparations are well in hand:

- Beds for our vendors are secured for Saturday night.
- Breakfast will be picked up from Wegman's and be on site by 8:00 AM.
- Lunch is arranged and will be delivered by Phil's Chicken House.
- Advertising has been secured by Bob Howe.
- Our "storefront" location will be secured through conversations with the Oakdale Mall, by Anne Tinker, show committee chair person.

We are in the process of securing more STOS members to help set-up, work on our displays and tear down, as well as man our information table. Members who have specific tasks for the show, let the committee know about the progress on their various jobs. We need members to help the judges on Saturday morning.

Next, we adjourned and met for a regularly-scheduled meeting, which commenced around 2:15 PM. Linda, our President called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and seconded.

Jane Trey, Treasurer, gave a treasury report. We have $7,185.00 currently on hand.

Anne Tinker filled the general membership in on what was discussed at our meeting prior to the start of today's regular meeting.

Linda asked if we had any new business to discuss and after a negative response, our President reminded us that on May 18th, we will have a repotting clinic in the downstairs of the church basement. Next on the agenda was the Show Table. Pete O'Connell and Dave Clemens showed us six or seven of their favorite orchids.

We had a break to partake in the various "food-stuffs" so generously provided by our members. Thanks to one and all! Good Eats!!

As we were enjoying our refreshments, Pete O'Connell and Luis Matienzo proceeded with a beautiful slide show that enhanced our ability to judge what our "auction orchids" would look like at maturity.
Of the 30 orchids presented for auction, I believe 29 sold. Thanks to anyone and everyone who put this auction together! It was wonderful!

Our meeting of April 06th concluded at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully,
Carol Browne, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that indicated we currently have an account balance of $7,185.00.

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Monthly Show Table

David Clemens:

1) Leptotes bicolor

Peter O'Connell:

1) **Paphiopedilum Fair Venus (Paph. Venus Ward x Paph. Fair Fred, registered by Lehua13/06/3011, per RHS)**

2) Masdevallia coccinea

3) **Vanda (syn. Ascofinetia) Cherry Blossom (Vanda (formerly Neofinetia) falcata x Vanda (formerly Ascocentrum) ampullacea, registered by E. Iwanaga 01/01/1961, per RHS**

Geoffrey Gould:

1) Dendrobium kingianum

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 Leptotes bicolor. 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

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Welcome, New (and returning) Members!

The STOS would like to send out a special "welcome" to our New Members who signed up at our 2014 STOS Orchid Show! We welcome you all to our orchid-loving family:

- Bonnie Donovan
- Jean Mint
- Chuck Muller
- Penny Thorp
- Linda Wylie
- Sharon Norton
- Ruth Herman

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Potting Up Plants

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 bee 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 more medium to the pot, being certain to fill the spaces in-, around- and between the roots, tamping gently as you do. Continue adding medium until the rhizome is sitting right on top of it.

For monopodial plants, center a mound of medium in the pot, making it tall enough that the plant can be placed right on top of it. "Fan" the roots down and around the mound, and add and tamp medium until it's level.

Water the plant thoroughly, and let it drain. If you added stuff like K-L-N to your presoaking solution, use that for this initial watering.

9b) If using sphagnum, I prefer to fill the spaces between- and surround the roots before putting it in the pot, keeping the same up-against-the-wall or centered positioning, as appropriate for the plant. Make the whole "ball" about the size of the pot, and then stuff it in. The moss should be packed firmly enough to provide support, but not so tightly that it restricts air flow to the roots. Assuming you moistened the moss adequately, no "watering-in" is needed.

9c) If you are moving into Semi-Hydroponics, hold the plant in position and pour medium into the pot, shaking it gently to move the particles of the medium in between the roots. Keep adding until full. Fill the pot with water and let it drain, leaving the reservoir full.

10) Place the newly-repotted plant in "mild" conditions - shady, humid, and warm - and do not water it again until you see that the new roots are taking hold. Sometimes it is a good idea to place a plastic bag over the plant and pot to simulate a mini-greenhouse, if you feel that it will be difficult to provide the right conditions otherwise. If you prepared your medium correctly, and the plant is in a proper location, watering should not be needed for a few weeks, by which time your plant should be established and ready to go back to its normal growing conditions. If the medium does dry out in the interim, water sparingly, dampening, but not soaking the medium.

Courtesy of First Ray Orchids

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Upcoming Meetings

May 18 ~ Repotting Clinic
June-August ~ Summer hiatus
September 21 ~ Our Annual 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:

May 18 ~ We need your help!
June-August ~ Summer hiatus
September 21 ~ We need your help!