



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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### Show Chair

Anne Quain

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

## May 2016

### NEXT MEETINGS

May 15, 2:00 First United Methodist Church  
\*\*Meeting is Downstairs for repotting!\*\*

\*\* June-August: Summer hiatus

### IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our May meeting:

**\*\* REPOTTING CLINIC! \*\***

\*\*Note: we will meet downstairs for the repotting clinic, so please use the rear entrance and parking lot!

### Meeting NOTES

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 location: May 15th, we will meet **DOWNSTAIRS** in the First United Methodist Church (please use rear parking lot and rear entrance):

[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 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

Dearest lovers of Orchids,  
 Spring is here, and lesser greenery and flowers are blessing the environment with their beauty. Although nothing compares with the artistic quality of our orchids that love us. Thank you all that participated in the April spring auction meeting, we had a profit of \$938. Pete O'Connell, our American Orchid Society representative, did a superior effort at arranging a great variety of orchids. Several orchids were contributed by Bob Rudin, John Zygmunt donated some incredibly beautiful framed photographs that sold extremely low priced. New member and artist Jnx, donated a framed original sketch of an orchid. It was a great day. Thanks to all the worker helpers that made the auction happen, with record keeping, accounting, and Luis did a great job of modeling the orchids. There were also wonderful snacks, and fresh homemade pastries, thanks to those that brought some.

We typically forgo meetings during the months of June, July, and August. Further information will be coming about our usual summer picnic hosted by Anne and John Quain.

I am still looking into arranging a permanent Orchid exhibit at Roberson Museum. They have receive a large grant to help promote local history, events, or resources. I am amazed at the artistic quality of our orchids, and it could promote our organization. I envision a video / electronic slide show with information slides, photos, and a demonstration of the variety of orchids in the world. Contact me if you would like to be involved.

The May meeting is most likely the most important one you will attend. It is a repotting session. Training on how to properly repot your orchids. Most successful orchid care is due to regular repotting of the plants. The roots need space, fresh media, and sometimes upsizing of the pots. You will learn how to separate larger plant growth into two or more smaller plants. At the meeting learn about the different kinds of potting media, and what orchids are best in which media. One seedlings will go home with each paid-up member, and more will be available for sale also. You can also look on You Tube for additional resources for orchid care.

Our "Southern Tier Orchid Society" shirts are in, and will be available at the May meeting. Repeat orders need a minimum of 6 shirts. This is and actual photo of a shirt. Thank you for your commitment to making the world a beautiful place. Visit our Facebook page, and you can upload photos of your orchids

May the orchids be with you,  
 Ben Cabot - President



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### Minutes for April

Ben Cabot, President, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

- Meeting notes from March were approved by the members.

Jane Trey, Treasurer, reported we have \$8,539.00 in the STOS treasury.

#### Old Business:

- Committees: Library -- There are all types of orchid books and magazines. You can keep them and bring them back when you can.
- Orchid show-- we will have to know by early September where and when.
- There will be an Executive meeting in September.
- Picnic--we will have a picnic in August.
- Tee shirts were not ready for this meeting. Hopefully by next meeting.
- The survey that members completed will be e-mailed to members.

#### New Business:

- Next months' meeting we will have a repotting session and a raffle.
- John Zygmunt and Pete O'Connell gave us very important information on correct repotting.
- You can find information on orchids on Youtube. Luis Matienzo also gave information on Orchid magazine and on the Web.
- Western fir bark is the best for potting orchids. Expensive, but the best.

Refreshments were then enjoyed. Again, thank you to all who brought in the goodies.

Auction began at 2:25PM. Pete and Luis conducted the auction and gave instructions for the auction as well as describing the orchids. There were so many smaller orchids this time. Almost all the orchids sold. After a quick refreshment break, the auction continued. Meeting was adjourned at 3:35PM.

PS. Per Jane Trey, we made \$1,970.00 minus the cost of \$1,032 for the orchids gave us a net profit of \$938.00!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Brunnabend, 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 \$8,539.

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### April Show Table

Due to the auction, we had no Show Table during our April meeting.

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### May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting—Repotting!!!

Be sure to attend the May 15th meeting for our annual repotting clinic! We will be meeting downstairs, so please park in the church back parking lot, and use the back door. Learn from our experts the proper way to repot your orchids! There will be demonstrations/instructions on how to repot, mount and divide orchids of all types! "Learn by doing"...and repot your very own seedling to bring home with you!

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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 pre-moisten moss with hot water, and then wait until it cools before use. Moss must be 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

Date	Program		Date	Program
15-May-16	Repotting Session	***	18-Sep-16	Annual Auction
June-August	Summer Hiatus	***	16-Oct-16	Luis Matienzo
	Repotting Session	***	20-Nov-16	John Dunkleberger
		***	18-Dec-16	Holiday Party

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

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