



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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November 2013

NEXT MEETINGS

November 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
of Endicott

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our November meeting! Our guest speakers will be Tom Purviance and John Salventi from Parkside Orchids!!!

Meeting NOTES

This month's guest speakers will be Tom Purviance and John Salventi of Parkside Orchids!!! They will be giving us a presentation on "Roots, It's All About the Roots." In addition, they are bringing plants to sell!!!

Come one, come all!!! This is a treat not to be missed!

The nominating committee, headed by Dawna Cole, will present a slate of candidates at the November 17th meeting. If you would be interested in running for an office, please contact Dawna!

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

With the year and my presidential term my term coming ending, I think back over what I accomplished and what could be improved. I am proud to have accomplished the following:

- Created a budget for 2012 which had not been done when I assumed office.
- Straightened out the finances of STOS paying unpaid bills and instituting internal controls over STOS funds
- Established a working library
- Presided (along with Anne Tinker) over a successful Show at the Oakdale Mall
- Created a Show Manual which should make it easier for future Show Chairs to run Annual Shows.
- Entered a very successful display at the Central NY Orchid Society Show
- Working (along with Jane Trey) to create a budget for 2014

What could be better? We need to have better attendance at monthly meetings and work to get new members. We need better definition of roles at the Annual Show and who is in charge of the various parts of the Show. I have hopefully addressed the latter in my Show Manual in terms of assigned "coordinators".

I hope all members can find the time to attend and support your Orchid Society. Growing and enjoying Orchids is a great hobby with much rewards no matter what your age. At the November meeting we hope again to have a great speaker and December is our annual Holiday Feast. Hope to see you all there.

John Zygmunt
STOS President

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Minutes for October 20

Our October meeting of the STOS was called to order by our President, John Zygmunt at approximately 2:15 PM. He asked for a motion and second to accept last month's minutes. The motion was accepted by Robert Howe and seconded by Linda Mandeville.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jane Trey who spoke about the current financial status of our club. Our treasurer said we made a profit at our auction last month AND we now have an account balance of \$8,801.00.

Mr. Zygmunt then spoke about old business. He has been working on putting together the finishing touches on his project, the STOS Orchid Show Manual which will give us "sure-fire" help in continuing to put together a successful show with much sought after instructions with valuable help.

Mr. Howe will be in touch with church personnel to see if we can have a pre-show meeting on the premises on Sunday, April 06th of 2014 to be sure everything is in place for our end of month show at the Oakdale Mall.

Anne Tinker, our Show Chair Person, gave an up to the minute report on her work: The date is set with the Mall, all the judges are in, we'll have assigned co-coordinators for the two day show and the vendors will be contacted soon.

Discussion ensued and a vote was taken for a change in the schedule of dinner for Saturday night versus breakfast and lunch for our judges on Saturday. The membership at this meeting voted to forfeit a dinner and institute a breakfast AND lunch on site on Saturday. The vote, in favor of the change in venue and meal changes, was unanimous.

A special note: John Zygmunt went to and participated in the Syracuse Orchid Show. His efforts in being our representative were greatly appreciated. Mr. Zygmunt won four (4) First Place Ribbons, one (1) Second Place and two (2) Third Place Ribbons. John also received TWO Trophies and a Special Rosette Ribbon. Noting his educational display, I'd like the membership to know he was awarded a total of 84 points by the judges. Thank You, John, for your hard work!

Dawna Cole volunteered to chair a nominating committee for new officers. Dawna will also be a candidate for our Board. Robert Rudin volunteered to be in charge of the show table and Information booth for the show. After a very successful meeting, we took a break, and enjoyed the treats from our members and had our raffle while we chatted and ate.

Members showed and talked about the orchids they brought for our enjoyment. Those members were: John Zygmunt (5), Greta DeRocher (7), Bob Rudin (2), Linda Mandeville (2) and Luis Matienzo (3). Thank you one and all.

Our president then introduced our guest speaker. Mr. Paul Sheetz, of Just Pat Orchids, who provided an educational slide show on "Hybrids & Awards of Dr. William W. Wilson, Penn Valley Orchids". Dr. Wilson's interest in orchids started out as a hobby and soon became "a hobby out of control". Dr. Wilson, a psychiatrist by profession, ended up being a judge at many orchid shows for more than sixty (60) years. Today he is honored on many fronts, not the least of which is "Judge Emeritus".

Our speaker, started judging in Philadelphia and has since been very active in many orchid activities, including his own orchid nursery activities, of course. Mr. Sheetz has been judging since 1978.

Dr. Wilson received his first orchid related award in 1949. Since that time he has become well known on the national scene with a special interest in "paph's" and he produced 295 of them. His beautiful orchids have names such as "Crazy Horse" (Indian Themes) and he also named them by months of the year, as well as a favorite pet dog.

The orchids displayed on slides in this presentation have several categories of awards worth mentioning:

FCC	First Class Certificate	89.5 ---100,
AM	Award of Merit	79.5----89.4
HCC	Highly Commendable Certificate	74.5----79.4

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Featured Speaker this Month

Don't miss this months' meeting (November 17th)!!! Tom Purviance and John Salventi of [Parkside Orchids](#) will be featuring a presentation on "*Roots, It's All About the Roots.*" In addition, they are bringing plants to sell! We are very fortunate to have them present to our group! Be sure to attend, and bring anyone interested in orchids -friends or family!!



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Monthly Checklist for November/December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Courtesy of AOS, Ned Nash and James Rose contributors

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Upcoming Meetings

November 17 ~ Parkside Orchids

January 19 ~ to be announced

December 15 ~ Annual Holiday Party

February 16 ~ to be announced

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 Anne Tinker know if you can help. Her contact info is on the front page.

Current refreshments list includes:

November 17 ~ We Need Your Help!

January 19 ~ We need your help!

December 15 ~ Everyone!!!

February 16 ~ We need your help!