Southern Tier Orchid Society

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http://www.storchidsociety.com/

January 2013

**** Happy New Year ****

NEXT MEETINGS

January 20, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

****1:00 Board of Directors/Show Committee meet prior to 1/20/13 regular meeting! ****

February 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Happy New Year!**

JANUARY PROGRAM NOTE

- "**Wild Orchids of New York State**" presented by Mr. Ken Hull, STOS member, and Director of the Microbiology Laboratory at United Health Services in Johnson City, Retired.

- ****Note: <u>In the event of a weather emergency,</u>** please check your email the morning of the meeting! If nothing is received from STOS, the meeting is on. Likewise, those who receive the newsletter by regular mail will receive a call from one of us. If any questions, members may also call me before 12:30 PM Sunday: Linda (607)-227-1563.

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

I hope all of you had a great Holiday. As new president of the society, I am finding I have a lot to learn about how we operate. I have updated the website to reflect the recent elections. Thanks Son. Please make sure all is correct. I would also invite all to review the Bylaws which are available also on the website under 'newsletters'. The December meeting was our traditional Holiday Feast. The food was great. We had a meeting of the show committee prior to the main meeting which was productive. Thanks to Anne this years' show chairperson for getting us off to a fast start. I would like to encourage all members to participate in future meetings to make this years show a success. A highlight of this years Holiday meeting was a free raffle of great looking Paphs in bloom to paid up members. All members present got a free orchid. Leftovers were then auctioned off to help defer the cost of the plants. Members, including myself, got some really great orchids at bargain prices. Thanks to Pete for getting the plants and running the following auction.

Prior to the next general meeting in Jan at 1:00, I thought we ought to have a board meeting. The bylaws require that we meet no fewer than two times a year Sept. and Jan. The Executive Board is "the counseling and advisory board for the society". One item on the agenda would be a budget for 2013. The current members are the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, AOS representative, past president, and the 3 board members (members at large). The executive board meeting is open to the general membership. Following this meeting we will have another short Show Committee meeting to update everyone on the plans for our April Show. Anyone who would like to attend that meeting is also welcome.

A reminder to all that the annual dues are due. This year it is $20 per family. An application form is available on the website. Luann and I will also bring forms at the next meeting.

I would like to credit Bob Howe for getting a speaker for Jan. and also February. Getting speakers is difficult especially in the winter. If weather does not permit, members will be notified by e-mail and phone if they don't have e-mail so if a snow storm is brewing be sure to check your e-mail before the meeting.

In the past we have assigned refreshments at our meetings. More recently we have just have had members bring in something. This has seemed to work out OK. Please feel free to bring in something (cake, cookies, fruit, veggies, etc). As always drinks, plates, napkins etc. are supplied by the club. I encourage all members when possible to come to the meetings. Remember without members there would be no Orchid Society. One of my goals this year is to try to get more members to attend the meetings. If anyone has any suggestions about changes in the meetings to make it more attractive to all members please let me know. Remember, new members are always welcome.

Finally, this is a tough time of the year for orchid growers. Tropical orchids do not like dark, cold, dry conditions. But with a little ingenuity we can get them through the winter. Grow lights, humidity trays and TLC goes a long way. When it's 20 degrees outside with the snow blowing sideways, there is nothing better to cheer you up the an orchid in full bloom! With any luck we might occasionally see the sun. (You remember the sun that glowing orb in the sky.)

John Zygmunt

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Minutes for December 16, 2012

The Show Committee held a short meeting today, at 1:10 PM, before our Annual Holiday Party. Anne Tinker, our current President, talked about different aspects of the STOS Show in which progress has been made. We have contracts in place, but, we need an insurance certificate to present, for use at our Oakdale Mall venue.

Information will be forth-coming, to our members with reference to the judges, vendors and displays which will be set in place for the Show. Security for our Show was discussed and it was decided we would pay the helpers in advance of the show, in order to be sure we have that issue covered.

The particulars for the judges housing, lunch and dinner, will be addressed at a later meeting.

We adjourned, in time for a short meeting with our members. Because, of our Holiday Party, the meeting, although productive, was kept brief. We formalized the election of Officers. As discussed previously, the 2013 Officers for the STOS are as follows: President- John Zygmunt, Vice President-Linda Mandeville, Treasurer-LuAnn Myers, Secretary-Carol Browne. Executive Board Members are: Paula Matienzo, Jane Trey and Robert Howe. AOS Representative is Luis Matienzo. Our Program Chair is Robert Howe and the STOS Show Chair is Anne Tinker.

Our new President, John Zygmunt then continued with the rest of the meeting's agenda. We ended the official business part of the meeting and proceeded with enjoying the food and drinks provided by society and its members in attendance. During the "banquet" portion of our meeting, we purchase raffle tickets. Those members whose membership dues were paid for 2012, each received a free orchid, courtesy of the STOS. Happy Holidays to our members and their families!

While we enjoyed the Holiday fare, those members who brought their orchid(s) for us to admire, showed them to us and spoke a little about their individual orchids. Those members were: John Zygmunt, Bob Rudin, Linda Mandeville, Peter O'Connell and Jane Trey.

Raffle numbers were called next and lastly, members who wished to, bid on the orchids that were up for auction.

We wished each other "Happy Holidays" and with that, our 2012 Season came to a close around 4:15 PM.

Our first meeting for 2013 is scheduled for Sunday, January 20.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Browne, Secretary

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It is a good idea to begin staking Phalaenopsis spikes before they get too far along. We will have a photo essay in the April issue of ORCHIDS magazine showing how to prepare orchids for display, but for now there is a brief explanation of how to stake a Phalaenopsis here. Certain Cattleya species bloom on cue for the holidays, notably Cattleya trianae and C. percivaliana (although both bloom across wider seasons in nature). It is a good idea to stake cattleyas also, as the flowers will display better. Decorating the home with blooming orchids can provide colorful accents that are always admired by guests. If you have any orchid shows nearby at this time of year, try to make the time to attend one and pick out a few plants that will bloom reliably at the holidays for years to come.

Orchid tips for winter...

- If you are a windowsill grower, the light will be entirely different at this time of year. Assess it carefully and make any necessary adjustments. A south window may be brighter due to bare trees and the sun being lower in the sky. Watch for sunburn and move plants back from the window or add a sheer curtain to cut down the light.
- Shorter days and gloomy weather in many parts of the country can cause plants to produce soft growths that are more susceptible to pests and disease. Some orchids will not flower if they do not receive enough light. If necessary, use a growlight on a timer to provide additional light in winter.
- Orchids grow more slowly in winter and will need less water and fertilizer. Most growers cut their fertilizer back to twice a month at half strength. Monitor orchids to keep them at their proper moisture level for their type. Generally, orchids will need about half as much water in winter as they do in summer. Some orchids must have a dry winter rest in order to flower. Click here to learn how to water your orchids.
- The loss of humidity as a result of forced air heating can take its toll on your orchids. Remember, most orchids grow optimally with 60-75% humidity. If your home is especially dry, and you will know by the way your own skin reacts to winter, provide extra humidity for your orchids. A tried and true method is to set orchid pots on trays of pebbles that are filled with water; just make sure your plant is not setting in the water. Misting a couple times a day can also help.
- Winter is cold, so protect plants from drafts. If buds start falling off of a Phalaenopsis infloresence the first thing to suspect is a drafty window (second thing is ethylene gas from a nearby heater). Do not put plants close enough to a window to touch the glass!
- If you happen to be lucky enough to live in an area where you grow your orchids outdoors year-round, don't be caught with your guard down. Even South Florida, the Gulf Coast and Southern California can experience damaging cold temperatures. Have a plan and supplies for covering or moving plants should cold weather be heading your way. Florida has has an unusually wet winter. Keep an eye out for fungal infections on leaves, and especially Botrytis on flowers. Provide ample air movement and keep growing area free of plant debris.

Providing a little extra attention to your orchids at this time of year will get them through the winter in good health and bloom!!!

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Upcoming Meetings

January 20 ~ Kenneth Hull
February 17~ To be announced
March 17 ~ To be announced
April 21 ~ STOS Show

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.

Current refreshments list includes:

January 20 ~ Everyone!!
February 17~ We need your help!
March 17 ~ We Need Your Help!

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