



Southern Tier Orchid Society

Executive Board

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Vice President

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Secretary

Linda Mandeville
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AOS Representative

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Linda Mandeville
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Show Chair

Anne Quain

Web Page

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

January 2018

NEXT MEETINGS:

January 21, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
****1:00 Board of Directors/Show Committee meet prior to 1/21/18 regular meeting! ****

February 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our January meeting! The Executive Board and Show Committee will meet at 1:00, followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. John Zygmunt will present: "*The Cloud Forest Ecosystem- A Life in the Clouds*"!

Meeting NOTES

****Note:** In the event of a weather emergency, please check your email the morning of the party! If nothing is received from STOS, the party 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 one of the Board Members.

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

Minutes for December

Carol Bayles, Vice President, with the assistance of John Zygmunt, brought the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. Meeting notes for November were approved by the members.

Treasurer's Report

- Jane Trey reported we have \$9,547.00 in the treasury
- Board and Committee Reports were given
- The Show manual is being updated by John Zygmunt
- The Orchid Show is planned for the end of April 2018. The judges are good with the date and have housing.

Old Business

- The nominations of officers were revisited. John Zygmunt has volunteered to take over the office as President, as Jnx had voiced her desire to have someone else take over the position.
- One new board member is needed as Luis Matienzo's term has ended. Ben Cabot agreed to be a board member. Ben will continue to update the Face book.
- Members then voted and approved the new officers:
 - President - John Zygmunt
 - Vice President - Carol Bayles
 - Treasurer - Jane Trey
 - Secretary - Linda Mandeville
 - AOS Representative: Pete O'Connell
 - Executive Board:
 - Anne Quain (term ends 12/19)
 - Sharon Voorhees (term ends 12/18)
 - Ben Cabot (new)

New Business

- January there will be a board meeting and show committee meeting
- Pete O'Connell explained how the drawing of the free member orchids would be. Any leftover orchids would be auctioned off.
- A very special food break was taken. Thanks to all the members that brought in goodies.

Show Table

- John Zygmunt and Luis Matienzo displayed their beautiful orchids.

Pete then conducted the orchid raffle and auction.

Meeting adjourned at 4PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

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SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS) annual memberships are \$20 per individual or household, and we ask you to complete the following form to update our membership and mailing lists for the newsletter. Payments are accepted in cash at the meeting or by check or money order, made payable to **Southern Tier Orchid Society**.

Please send this form and your payment to:

Jane Trey, STOS Treasurer 62 Lincoln Avenue Binghamton, NY 13905	or	Linda Mandeville, Membership Coordinator 1515 Walker Rd. Endicott, NY 13760
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NAME: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- ____ I AM A NEW MEMBER (PLEASE COMPLETE FORM BELOW).
____ I AM RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP AND MY CONTACT INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR'S.
____ I AM RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP AND AM UPDATING MY CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

**Please indicate if you would allow your contact information to be released to other members: (Yes__ No__)

I would like to receive the newsletter (please check one). *Please help us conserve – if you have email, please let us send your newsletter to your email:

By mail _____

By e-mail _____

Please note: This form can also be found on our website (www.storchidsociety.com)

Received: _____

Date

By: _____

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Baby It's Cold Outside!



(photo by Kenneth Hull)

For most parts of the country, winter is in full swing. The midwest and eastern states have received their share of snow already. The shorter and often dull days, along with cooler temperatures, affect our orchids in both good and bad ways.

First the good news; cooler temperatures and/or shorter days send the signal to many orchids that it is time to flower. Inflorescences on many Phalaenopsis (left) and Cymbidium hybrids should be well developed by Christmas. Be on the lookout for bugs that think of your precious orchid buds as tasty winter treats. Mealybugs will be the most likely suspects. Fortunately, these soft-bodied pests can be easily controlled with one teaspoon castile soap (we use Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap) in a quart of water in a hand sprayer. This safe home treatment may require several applications every other day until control is achieved. Don't be tempted to mix any chemical control, even one as benign as soap, stronger than recommended.

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 inflorescence 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

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|--|-----------------------------|
| January 21 ~ John Zygmunt - Cloud forest | March 18 ~ Pre-Show meeting |
| February 18 ~ Kim Fedderson | April 15 ~ Spring Auction |

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

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