



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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October 2014

NEXT MEETINGS

October 19, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

November 16, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

IN THIS ISSUE

- Don't miss our October meeting - Krum Sotirov will be speaking on "Orchid Pests and Diseases"!

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- Krum Sotirov will give a presentation on "Orchid Pests and Diseases".

Any contributions, articles, and/or photos for the monthly newsletter are appreciated! Please submit any inputs by the first week of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

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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Minutes for September 21

The Southern Tier Orchid Society resumed our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, today, with a 1:00 PM setup and preparation for our September Orchid Sale.

About 1:20 PM Linda Mandeville, President, called our meeting to order and welcomed us back. New members and old were strong in attendance for our sale. Thank you!

Motion for approval of minutes for our last meeting was accepted and seconded.

Our treasurer's report was given by Jane Trey. We currently have \$8,172.00 in our coffers. Jane reported \$400.00 from the sale of our May plant sale.

Old business was next on the agenda. The August picnic was a great success, and many members attended and had a marvelous time. The host venue was at the home of our recently married Anne Tinker Quain! Congratulations to the bride and groom. All of us at STOS wish both you and John a happy, long life, Anne!

New business was next. Linda reminded members of the October 3rd through 5th CNYOS SHOW at the Beaver Lake Nature Center. We will have a display, so members were reminded that the orchids they purchased today ARE eligible for that show. Volunteers came forward to set up and tear down for the October show.

Anne Tinker Quain (yes, that's our new bride) told us that because of scheduling conflicts with judges, our show this year has been moved to May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Anne has secured those dates with the Oakdale Mall.

The Montrose Garden Club had a presence here today and thanked Peter O'Connell for his outstanding presentation earlier this year.

We next had a short break and participated in the wonderful selection of food goodies (a varied and delicious selection!) brought by generous members! Thanks you one and all!

Our auction commenced immediately. A lot of us who bought.....bought again.....and again! Thanks to Peter, Luis and ALL who helped make this a successful auction!

The auction ended at approximately 3:20 PM.

Some members stayed to clean up and restore the church basement to its` original condition. Thank you most graciously. We DO need more of us to "pitch in" at the end of meetings. Please help when you can. We appreciate your time and the help that you give!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Browne, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey, treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$8,172.00 in the treasury. We earned a \$400 profit at our May "mini-auction". Thank you, Pete, for your effort in pulling this off!

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October Speaker

Be sure to attend our meeting on October 19th (our normal 2:00 meeting time, in the upstairs meeting room). Krum Sotirov will be offering a presentation on "Orchid Pests and Diseases". Mr. Sotirov will provide us with some very pertinent information on combatting those nasty little pests that we all deal with! Krum asks those members who have troubled orchids to bring them to the meeting so that he may analyze the problem and suggest remedies for healthier orchids. **Please Note:** To insure against passing problems of pests and diseases to other orchids, Krum suggests placing the problematic orchid in a plastic grocery bag, thereby isolating it from other plants. In addition, he will be bringing plants to sell! Be sure to mark the 19th on the calendar!

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Monthly Show Table

Because the auction consumed all of the time at the meeting on Sunday, September 21, there was no Show Table. During our meetings in October through May, we'd like to share your pride in those orchids that you have coaxed into blooming, as well as any other information you'd like to present and discuss with fellow STOS members. We look forward to seeing your beauties at our October meeting!

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get a pretty good estimate using just your hand. On a clear day, position yourself so that your hand is between your plants and the light source and about 12 inches from the leaves and observe the shadow, if any, your hand casts. If you can see no shadow, you probably do not have enough light for any orchids with the exception of the jewel orchids which are grown more for their leaves than flowers. If the shadow is fuzzy and faint to moderate your light level should be sufficient for *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* which require less light than most orchids. If the shadow you see is sharp, you most likely have sufficient light for all but the highest light-requiring orchids like cymbidiums, vandas and ascocendas.

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow a mixed collection of orchids. Hobbyists do it all the time. They just take advantage of the variation in conditions throughout their growing areas. As far as light levels are concerned, direct sunlight entering an unshaded window can be as high as 4,000 to 8,000 footcandles measured directly at the glass while it may only be as low as 500 footcandles just inside the shade off to the side of the same window. Lower light plants like *Paphiopedilum* and *Phalaenopsis* can be staged in these shady areas while higher light plants like oncidiums and cattleyas can be arranged closer to the center and nearer the glass. It just takes a little experimentation.

Quality vs Quantity

Plants need red and blue light and they reflect green. Light from the red end of the spectrum is critical for flowering while that from the blue end is used in growth. This is usually not a problem when plants are grown out-of-doors or in a greenhouse unless the greenhouse skin is very old and has yellowed to the point that the spectral quality is poor. However, for plants grown under lights, this can be an important factor and is the reason that many books recommend a mixture of 50:50 cool-white and warm-white fluorescent tubes in the light rack. Spectral quality can also be an issue if you are growing your plants in a sunroom glazed with bronze or other colored glass since these glazing materials may filter out much of the spectrum used by plants.

Duration

Longer is not always better. First, plants need a night just as we do. They are adapted to the daily cycle of the sun and different parts of their metabolic cycle are accomplished during light and dark periods. In addition, many orchids, especially species, are adapted to changes in day length. This is called photoperiodicity. Fall-blooming cattleyas flower as day length shortens while spring-blooming ones as day length increases. If these plants are grown under conditions of constant day length they may never flower. The old cattleya cut-flower growers used this knowledge to time flowering for important holidays and it's used today by Poinsettia growers for the Christmas market. Why is this important to the hobby grower? It's really quite simple. While a street light outside your greenhouse or living room window will produce such little light that being on all night won't matter that's not the case for lights in your growing area. If your only choice for a growing area is one that is lit late into the night, it would be best to concentrate on those plants like *Phalaenopsis* that flower without regard to day length.

Too Much Light

Unlike too little light whose effects are often insidious, the opposite can be true of too much light. Too much light, especially if it's a sudden change usually results in dramatic damage (sunburn) in very little time. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. Plants chronically exposed to too much light but not enough to cause sunburn will be stunted with yellow, hard foliage. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

This is one area of orchid culture where you want to make changes SLOWLY. Orchids are easily sunburned if light levels rise too fast. When moving plants around, especially when bringing them outdoors after winter, err on the side of excess shade. Make changes when you are going to be home and can watch the plants. Feel the leaves. The palm of your hand is about 93F. If they are hot to the touch, the leaf temperature is well about 95F and serious damage can occur in very little time.

Couresty, [American Orchid Society](#)

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Upcoming Meetings

October 19 ~ Krum Satirov
 November 16 ~ Isabel Lopatin

December 21 ~ Annual Holiday Party
 January 18 ~ TBA

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:

October 19 ~ We Need Your Help!
 November 16 ~ We Need Your Help!

December 21 ~ Everyone!
 January 18 ~ We Need Your Help!