



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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March 2013

NEXT MEETINGS

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

****1:00 Board meeting prior to regular meeting**

April 20-21 STOS Orchid Show at Oakdale Mall!
(setup on April 19th)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Monthly Checklist for March and April

March PROGRAM NOTE

- March meeting will focus on our annual Orchid Show at the Oakdale Mall, April 20-21; also budget and Library Set-up!
- ****Note: In the event of a weather emergency,** 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



President's Message

It was nice to see some old and new faces at the February meeting. 18 members were in attendance which is an improvement over January. A reminder to all to pay your dues. A form is available on the website and I will bring more to the next meeting. We had a good pre-meeting getting ready for the show, our premier event. We need all hands on deck to make a successful show. This was followed by a general meeting then a great lecture on the "Orchids of Ecuador". Thanks to Bob Howe for getting the speaker. The upcoming meeting is a busy one and I encourage all members to attend. The following is my agenda:

- 1:00 an important board meeting. I will present the 2013 budget and go over the financial status of the society. The current board members are myself, Linda Mandeville, Carol Brown, Luis Matienzo, Anne Tinker, and members at large Bob Howe, Jane Trey, and Paula Matienzo. The board has the final say in all matters related to the club. Some of the board members will be unable to attend but I would like to proceed, as the budget is overdue.
1:45 Bring in the library cabinet which I hope to bring in my truck. I will need 3 people with strong backs to help me. If I don't have time, we can do it at the library portion of the meeting.
2:00 general meeting. I will present old and new business, the treasurers' report and budget
to follow: our pre-show meeting. This is where we make our final preparations for the show. If you plan to help at the show please attend.
Break, show table if anyone wants to bring in plants, and raffle if any.
to follow: Library meeting. Colin will bring in the library books and magazines for the members to go through. We will discuss library procedures with involvement of the library committee, create an inventory, and bring the books to the cabinet. (There is an old inventory list and a set of library rules on the website under newsletters.) We have limited space, especially for magazines, and cannot keep lots of old magazines. They can be given away to members or at the show or disposed of. It would be nice to save some room for the refreshment things such as cups, plates, coffee pot, etc. so we don't have to bring it in each time. If we run out of room, we can purchase a second cabinet; but to defer the cost, we might have to have a fund raiser. Lets' see how it goes.

Remember, the show is one day less this year. Friday, April 19 is set up, with judging on Saturday morning, April 20. As you will find out, money is an issue for the club. The loss of the stipend from the mall is causing us major financial issues. We need members who will be willing to put judges up for a night or two. As an incentive we decided at the last show meeting that whoever does this is entitled to a free meal at the judge's dinner at PS restaurant.

As I look in my greenhouse at my poor shivering orchids longing for light, I am heartened by the fact that yes spring will eventually come. The other day I was in my backyard and heard the spring song of the chickadees. Maybe they know something we don't.

John Zygmunt



Minutes for February 17, 2013

The STOS Show Committee met today at 1:30 PM, prior to our regularly scheduled member meeting. Discussed were items such as offering of "overnight accommodations" for our vendors. Several members in attendance offered their homes for the Saturday night of our STOS Show at the Oakdale Mall. Attaining advertising, for the show will become the responsibility of Bob Howe, who volunteered, again, this year. Our thanks to Mr. Howe. We will sponsor a Saturday evening dinner for our judges and, anyone who houses an out of town vendor will be treated to their dinner by STOS. Thanks for your gracious help, members! We will pay for security for our show in advance of said show. Dawna Cole has volunteered to be in charge of lunch at the mall for our members (and vendors, et al). Dawna will be in touch with Phil's Chicken House to make arrangements. Bob Rudin has, once again, taken charge of our "Information Table" and will line up sign up members who have the time and inclination to "man" said table. Thank you again, Mr. Rudin.

At the conclusion of our Show Committee meeting, the regular scheduled meeting of the STOS commenced at approximately 2:10 PM. President John Zygmunt called our meeting to order and began by seeking an approval and "second" to accept the minutes of the last meeting in January. Having been given the approval to continue, we did so.

Anne Tinker, our Show Committee Chair, went over the committees notes for the benefit of our membership at large, in attendance. Cathy Sullivan, our guest speaker, for today's meeting is willing to bring orchid supplies and its like and set them up for sale for our show.

Old business was next on the agenda. John Zygmunt has narrowed down his selection of a "much needed" cabinet for various supplies. Members listened and gave approval for said expenditure. Mr. Zygmunt will purchase the cabinet and, with the help of several members will bring it in and help with final assembly.

Next meeting will consist of a needed change of format in order to proceed with some long-over-due additions to our library and set-up. The first half of the meeting will be a pre-show meeting (no speaker) and the second half will be devoted to setting up our library. Once again, Dawna Cole has volunteered her time and energy for the benefit of STOS. She will be our Librarian. Thank you, Dawna.

It was mentioned that the Rochester Orchid Show will be held on March 6th and 7th.

Next we took a break, at which time raffle tickets were sold, and as we ate the "goodies" supplied by our members; they were treated to the plethora of beauties on the show table. Those who spoke of their orchids were: J. Zygmunt, P.O'Connell, L. Mandeville and C. Dimon.

After our break, Bob Howe introduced our guest speaker, Cathy Sullivan, who was recommended by Greta DeRocher, a long time STOS member.

Cathy Sullivan of "Annie's Orchids" in Pleasant Mount, Pennsylvania, presented an "Ecuadorian Orchids" marvel of color and beauty that reaches from sea level to the mountains. The large variety of said orchids can be found from "sea level to the Andes" in many different species, on the west coast of South America. "Annie's Orchids", by Cathy Sullivan, encompasses 1750 acres of greenhouses and, indeed, true to its name is ALL orchids. Ms. Sullivan sells orchids and gives lectures. Along with enchanting us with some personal information, with regard to the number of children she and her husband have raised over

the years, Ms. Sullivan informed us that she became a life-long lover of orchids at a young age partly because she read "The Orchid Thief" and was thus "hooked" for the rest of he life.

Ecuador has 4,200 species of orchids, more than any other country in the world. She has been to South America's Ecuador, three times and will travel there again. She has fallen in love with the area, and its people and has met many fellow orchid lovers, one of which, Monica Navarro, has a Dracula Orchid named after her. We were treated with a presentation of thousands of orchids, some of which grow by the side of the road. Others grow as high up as tree-tops and, indeed, new species are always being discovered. Ecuador has 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark and that particular environment, on and near the equator seems to be responsible for numbers and species in abundance.

We were treated to pictures of Dracula's growing by the side of the roads. The orchids grow in such abundance that one needs to be careful WHERE EVER one walks! There is, of course, a ban on removing orchids from where they grow.

Next we were treated to "The Cloud Forest Reserve at Bellavista". There, numbers of people bird watch in the mountains. There are 80 species of Humming Birds in the Reserve and we saw a picture or two of them in their natural habitat.

Orchids of Ecuador can be found in and near waterfalls, in rocks and just about everywhere in the area.

Cathy closed her presentation by telling us about an open house she'll be conducting on May 4th of this year. She reminded us that Annie's Orchids..... "is only one hour and seventeen minutes away from us".

We thanked our presenter for a delightful hour and ended our meeting at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Browne, Secretary

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Show Table

SUNDAY, February 17, 2013

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|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PETE O'CONNELL | <u>Masd. Angle Heart</u>
<u>Masd. Bella Donna</u> |
| LINDA MANDEVILLE | <u>Miltonia hybrid.</u> |
| JOHN ZYGMUNT | <u>Paph. Charhill 'Athena' x Paph Mach One 'Skipper'</u>
<u>Den. antennatum</u>
<u>Onc. croesus x</u>
<u>Guaricyclia kyoguchi</u>
<u>Aerangis hyatoides</u>
<u>Epi. polybulbon</u>
<u>Masd. Patriciana</u> |



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report will be provided at our March meeting.



Monthly Checklist for March and April

Long before there was the internet, monthly checklists of orchid care were a staple of AOS orchid information. These checklists have long been a regular feature in the AOS publications. Because plant growth and flowering is in tune with the changing seasons, these monthly checklists will remind you of what needs to be done when in your orchid collection throughout the year.

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



Cymbidium Magic Mountain photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'
AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids.
Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

Reprinted courtesy of the AOS website; The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

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Upcoming Meetings

March 17 ~ Pre-Show and Library Set-up
May 19 ~ Repotting Clinic

April 20-21 ~ STOS Orchid Show!
June-Sept ~ Summer Hiatus

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:

March 17 ~ We Need Your Help!
May 19 ~ We Need Your Help!

April 20-21 ~ STOS Orchid Show
June-Sept ~ Summer hiatus

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