



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)

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- 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

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



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.



