

# Southern Tier Orchid Society

#### **Executive Board**

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Newsletter & Membership Linda Mandeville 607-227-1563 Irmandeville@stny.rr.com

Show Chair Anne Quain Web Page http://www.storchidsociety.com/ November 2018 NEXT MEETINGS:

November 18, 2:00 \*Executive Board meets @ 1:15 First United Methodist Church

December 16, 2:00 Holiday Party!

# IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our November meeting – Mr. Paul Sheetz of Just Pat's Orchids, speaking on Encyclias!

# Meeting NOTES

November 18th meeting will be held at 2:00, with a Board meeting @ 1:15 prior to regular meeting. All are welcome to attend!

We will meet <u>UPSTAIRS</u> in the First United Methodist Church:

First United Methodist Church 53 McKinley Ave. Endicott, NY 13760

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the  $5^{th}$  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 Message

Winter is coming. The days are getting shorter. A time to adjust to that annoying clock change. Will it ever stop raining! A time to make sure your orchids get enough light and hope the Phals will spike. The next meeting is on November 18 upstairs at the church at 2PM. Our speaker will be Mr. Paul Sheetz; wellknown to us as a judge at our shows. He will be speaking on Encyclias.

I would like to have a board meeting before the main meeting at 1:15 upstairs. I ask all board members to attend. We will discuss whether or not we should have a show this coming year given the problems with traffic flow at the Oakdale Mall. Thank you all to the current Board members who have given me their opinion on the 3 alternative sites I investigated.

Also, on the agenda for the main meeting will be presentation of nominees for next year. The final vote will be at the December meeting. Officials to be elected are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, One rotating board member, and AOS rep.

John Zygmunt STOS President - 2018

#### Meeting Minutes for October

STOS President, John Zygmunt, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

#### Approval of Minutes:

• A motion was made and accepted to approve the September 2018 Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report:

• Jane reported that we currently have a balance of \$10,594.00 in our STOS account.

#### Old Business:

• September auction netted \$947 (profit!) We sold all 66 plants!

#### <u>Committee reports:</u>

#### Show Committee:

• Anne Tinker feels she is not able to do justice to her position as Show Committee Chair, due to health problems. It is hard for her to be at the Show. She can some Show work on the compute, which includes communicating with AOS, setting up Mall insurance, etc and vendors. Perhaps someone would like to work with her and take over some aspects.

<u>Program committee:</u> Carol has arranged for Paul Sheets to speak in November. His topic will be 'Encyclias'. Also we will have John Dunkelberger in March.

<u>Library</u>: Ben Cabot, the unofficial chair, suggested we change the rule about a 3-day notice to check out an item. Other changes in the library were discussed.

#### Other Notes:

The AOS rep, Peter O'Connell, has moved to Key West and feels he cannot continue in this capacity, so this position will be open for 2019 nomination.

The website is out-of-date, we should get a new site.Our Facebook page is open for any member to post a photo or message.

We need a nominating committee for officers for next year. Most officers will be staying, only the AOS rep and one more board member needs to be nominated.

#### Show Discussion

John is worried about the Mall as they are already bankrupt. Tioga Gardens is a possibility and Ben Cabot mentioned the Roberson Museum again.

The raffle was held after a short break for refreshments. Rick made us a pot of fresh coffee--that was a highlight ©.

#### <u>Program:</u>

Speaker Wade Hollenbach spoke about Bulbophyllums' Care and Culture. Wade gave a great talk about this huge orchid group. Two things distinguish Bulbophyllums-- they have a hinged lip (which can float in a breeze) and the petals are smaller than the sepals. Other than that they vary widely in size and shape. Wade showed beautiful pictures of about 30 different species followed by pictures of hybrids with their parents. He talked about his Bublophyllum breeding program and about their care and culture. The talk is on Facebook if you missed the meeting. He also brought plants for sale which were very popular. Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Bayles for Linda Mandeville, Secretary

#### Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that we currently have an account balance of \$10,594.

#### November Program

Be sure to attend our meeting on November 18th @ 2:00, in the upstairs meeting room of the church. Mr. Paul Sheetz will be offering a presentation on Encyclias! These beauties are a "must-have" for every collection!! Paul Sheetz is one of our well-known AOS judges, and has a wealth of knowledge of encyclias, as well as all orchids!! Please come and enjoy learning about Encyclias!



Enc. Ginger Snap (Gail Nakagaki  $\times$  Orchid Jungle) Image courtesy of <u>scott.zona</u>

Monthly Checklist for November and December

# Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief

period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

## **Cool-Growing Orchids**

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

## Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four

months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

#### Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in Oncidium section crispum from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

#### Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

## Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

#### Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is Neofinetia falcata. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Article courtesy of The AOS with thanks to Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

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