



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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### Show Chair

Anne Tinker

### Web Page

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

## February 2013

### NEXT MEETINGS

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

**\*\*1:30 Show Committee meet prior to regular meeting!  
All welcome!!**

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

- The Orchid Clock

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM NOTE

- "Orchids of Ecuador" presented by Cathy Sullivan of Annie's Orchids, Pleasant Mount, PA.
- **\*\*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 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month to the editor.

If you have difficulties with the electronic format of this newsletter, please contact the webmaster at:  
[southern-tier-orchids-society@gmail.com](mailto:southern-tier-orchids-society@gmail.com)

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### President's Message

We had our January meeting this past weekend. Before the meeting we had a Board meeting. Among topics discussed were a budget for 2013, library, and how to get more members to attend meetings. LuAnn, Pete and I will be working on the budget. I presented options and prices for a cabinet to be used for the library. Colin has the books and magazines. Due to limited space, we decided to limit the number of magazines. There are apparently many old ones. A suggestion was to offer them to members and dispose of the rest. I will appoint a library committee when we get the cabinet and everything in place. We also discussed how to increase attendance at monthly meetings. Today only 10 members came despite good weather and a great speaker. We discussed possible reasons including members busy doing other things, aging out of older members, less interest in orchid growing, a change from the Vestal Library (most doubted this). I suggested advertizing the society in the form of a business card and distributed a prototype which was well received. I will work on this through Vistaprint. These can be distributed at the Show and keep a few to give to friends and others who might be interested in joining. I think we especially need to try to recruit new members at the Show. We will be holding another Show committee meeting at 1:30 before the Feb. meeting. The Show is sooner then we think. We need all members to help! All members may attend the Show Committee meeting.

The speaker, Ken Hull, gave an excellent talk on Orchids of New York State. He has traveled extensively in and out of New York State in search of native Orchids and his amazing slides were taken by him many in mosquito infested bogs and fens. I finally understand the difference between a bog and a fen. Thanks Ken.

Yes, I know that it's colder then a moose's nose out there, but the world didn't end despite the Mayan calendar, so its time to come back to our monthly meetings!

John Zygmunt

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### Minutes for January 20, 2013

Prior to the beginning of the STOS first meeting of 2013, John Zygmunt, our newly elected president, chaired the first board meeting of the New Year. As president, he and the board discussed goals, issues and solutions to potential "road blocks" for a successful new year.

We are still looking for a cabinet to hold STOS supplies and an "in-house" library. Several possibilities were discussed and a final decision is forth coming. We need to increase the number of paid members for the new year, as well as find a way to encourage regular attendance by more members. Several suggestions were entertained.

At the conclusion of board meeting business, a committee meeting for the annual STOS show was conducted. We touched on the need for a "manual" to be kept readily available, for future use, to help new and existing members know the procedures that come into play to set up and conduct a successful

show. Budget issues were discussed, with more information from our treasurer, LuAnn Myers, coming at our next regular meeting.

Our monthly meeting was next on the agenda. John Zygmunt introduced and welcomed visitors to our meeting. A Virgil, NY resident, Mr. L. Geiger and Johnson City residents Dave and Eileen Patch were our guests.

Old business was discussed along with the information that the cost of dues for 2013, of \$20 a year, is now due. That price is for an individual and/or family.

A librarian is needed to get our books and other reading material in order AND available as soon as possible. John will "appoint" a volunteer.

Next, Bob Howe talked about February's speaker. Cathy Sullivan, of "Annie's Orchids" of Mount Pleasant, PA. In lieu of a speaker's fee, Cathy wants the STOS to raffle off a 2013 AOS membership fee for the magazine. This beautiful gesture is a valuable asset to any STOS member, (A \$60 value). Thank You, Cathy!

Next on our program was the Show Table. John Zygmunt, Bob Rudin, LuAnn Myers and Linda Mandeville offered their orchids for members and guests to view and admire.

While we took a break for refreshments and conversation raffle tickets were sold. This gave our January speaker, Mr. Ken Hull, a few moments to finalize preparations for his program.

Mr. Kenneth Hull is retired from Micro Biology at Wilson Hospital. His subject, "Wild Orchids of New York State", covered orchids that are commonly found here. His beautiful and well thought out slide presentation covered Lady Slippers (LS) -genus Cypripedium, Orchids-genus Platanthera, Fringed Orchids and Pad leaved Orchids. Mr. Hull amazed most of us by telling us that pink lady slippers can be found at Chenango Valley State Park around Memorial Day. Some endangered species in NYS, like the "Ram's Head" are VERY tiny. Many are found ONLY by carefully scrutinizing said area. Mr. Hull also reminded us that all orchids in NYS are protected and it is illegal to pick them. Some very large orchids can also be enjoyed "on your hunt". West of Rochester, he found yellow Lady Slippers which also grow around here. The Ithaca area is a good place for orchids to grow. Most prefer the limestone found in that area's soil. The Long Island area is also a place where some pallidum, "fringed orchid" will grow. The Pad leaved orchids, P.hookeri, "Hooker's orchids" are from the beautiful Adirondack area of NYS. Mr. Hull then answered questions from members and visitors.

With our thanks and appreciation to our knowledgeable speaker, we concluded our meeting around 3:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Browne, Secretary

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**Show Table**

**SUNDAY, January 20, 2013**

**LUANN MYERS** Restrepia elegans

**LINDA MANDEVILLE** Oncidium (Onc.) Twinkle 'Red Fire'  
Miltonia hybrid

**JOHN ZYGMUNT** Paph. Stefi Heanes "CH" x Paph. StoneLovely "#6"  
Masd. Patriciana  
Companettia latipeltata  
Paph. Mele Loue Stone  
Blc Jennifer Catherine  
Aerangis hyatoides  
Paph Charhill 'Athena' x Paph. Mach One "skipper"

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**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report will be provided at our February meeting by the Treasurer.

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**February Program**

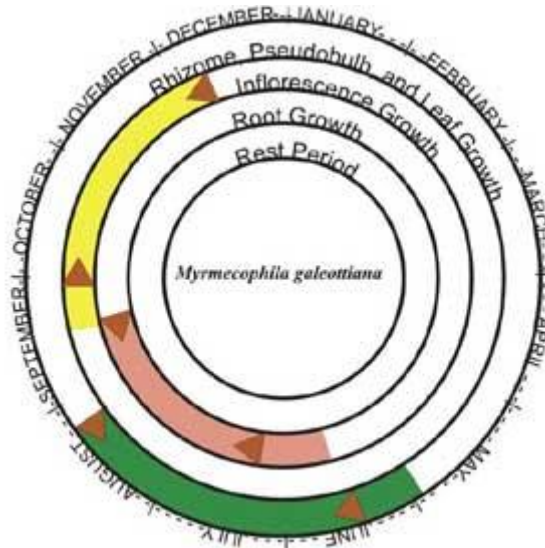
Cathy Sullivan of *Annie's Orchids*, Pleasant Mount, PA, will give a presentation on the "Orchids of Ecuador." A frequent traveler to Ecuador, Cathy is very familiar with the complex microsystems of equatorial orchids, from sea level to the Andes Mountains.

In addition to her presentation, Cathy will be bringing orchids for sale. We are also hoping that she brings orchid enthusiasts from the Honesdale, PA area to our February meeting. Also, in lieu of a taking a speaker's fee, Cathy has requested that the STOS raffle off a 2013 AOS membership to someone in our group!! This is a very thoughtful gesture, and will be a valuable asset to one of our lucky STOS members!

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### The Orchid Clock



Orchids have a cycle of life. The key to understanding the annual life cycle of a plant, and knowing how to respond to it, can be depicted visually as a clock.

Orchid growers know their plants will produce flowers at a certain time of year, and will grow new leaves and rhizomes at another. By charting these on a clock face, we can better respond to the needs of the plant in terms of fertilization, watering, etc.

Every species of orchid is different. Some orchids bloom in May and June, others flower in time for certain holidays. Some have blossoms that last for only a few days, while others last for months. Also, exact timing can depend on a number of factors, including the region of the world in which the plant lives.

This orchid clock should be duplicated for each species that you have. Here’s how to chart a time cycle chart for every species in your collection. Begin by placing an arrow, pointing clockwise, at the time of year when a new inflorescence appears, and another arrow, pointing counterclockwise when the blooms fade. Place both arrows in the ring marked “Inflorescence Growth.” Repeat this for the leaf growth ring and the root growth ring.

By seeing the times of the year when each of the significant growth patterns occur, we can now plan to fertilize our plants in a timely manner. To better visualize the fertilization patterns, I use three different colors of highlighter marker pens: green for growth, yellow for blooms and pink for roots.

Start the highlighted area of the ring two–four weeks before the beginning and continue it to almost the end of the particular growth pattern. (There may be some overlap in ring colors.)

Fertilizers are identified with three numbers, which I refer to as “Shoots,” “Fruits” an element needed for plant growth. The second number is phosphate (P2O5), a chemical shown to increase flowering (and fruiting). The third is potash (K2O), a chemical needed for root growth, overall plant health and stamina.

During the “green” time of year, I recommend a fertilizer that is 20-10-10. During the “yellow” time of year, consider a 10-20-10 fertilizer. The “pink” season calls for a 20-20-20 fertilizer. Any similar fertilizer formulas should be sufficient. The last ring — entitled “Rest Period” — is when your plant needs to rest and muster its strength for the next year’s growth. During Rest Period, fertilize and water sparingly.

By looking at your orchid clock (and a calendar) you can now easily see what kind of fertilizer each species of orchid in your collection needs. The colors of the highlighter pens were chosen because they approximate the color of the fertilizer I use.

*T.J. Hartung is president of the Vallarta Orchid Society (www.pvorchids.com) in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He is also on the board of directors of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens (www.vallartabotanicalgardens.org). Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (e-mail tjhartung@gmail.com).*

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### Upcoming Meetings

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>February 17</b> ~ Cathy Sullivan, “Orchids of Ecuador” | <b>March 17</b> ~ To be announced |
| <b>April 21</b> ~ STOS Show                               | <b>May 19</b> ~ Repotting Clinic  |

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:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>February 17</b> ~ We Need Your Help! | <b>March 17</b> ~ We Need Your Help! |
| <b>April 21</b> ~ We Need Your Help!    | <b>May 19</b> ~ We Need Your Help!   |

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