



May 2026

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

Next Meeting May 17, 2pm-4pm

Repotting Session

Here is an opportunity to repot your orchid with expert assistance. You may bring a plant and a pot or 2 and some media and someone will guide you on repotting it. Or just watch repotting done by our members. We will have a number of plants that need repotting or dividing and you can learn how this is done. There will be a mini auction of the repotted plants, some of which are pictured below. If you have any orchids to donate, you may bring them.



Show Thank You

Our wonderful Show, May 2-3, could not have happened without the help of our members. The Exec. Board would like to thank all of you who came, many of you spent all 3 days at the show, working, talking with visitors and sharing your love of orchids. This dedication is what makes our club so successful.

A special thank you from all of us goes to the organizers of the show, Jeff Hackett, the Show Chair, Linda Mittel, President, who oversaw everything, Luanne Meyers, VP, who ordered and served the food, Mari Stover-Ling, Treas, who organized and manned the admission table, Polly Dillon and Bernice Magee, who planned and set up the information tables, and I am sure others were involved. We also thank those who helped set up displays, manned tables, and worked on setup and cleanup, way too many to list, but Thank You all.

Our Show is the biggest event each year for the club, an amazing undertaking that somehow comes together every time.

--Carol Bayles, editor

[Show Results here](#)

Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Linda Mittel

Vice President

LuAnn Myers

Treasurer

Mari Stover-Ling

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Melissa Bennett

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

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Gail Gunsalus

Jean Mint

Auction Committee Jean Mint, Jeff Hackett

IT Specialist Melissa Bennett

Librarian Laurel Shaefer

Marketing TBD

Membership Melissa Bennett, Anitra Murphy

Newsletter Editor Carol Bayles

Program Coordinator Jean Mint

Social Event Ruth Allen, Jane Trey

Social Media Jean Mint, vacancy

Show Chair Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

Web Master Carol Bayles

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STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com

STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyNY>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/SouthernTierOrchidSociety/>

STOS Calendar 2026

Meetings are 2-4 pm (1:30-2 is 'social time')
at the Johnson City Senior Center,
30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY 13790.

Jan 18 General Meeting. Orchid Games

Feb 15 General Meeting, in Person - Speaker Jason Fisher will present via Zoom on Vanilla orchids.

Mar 15 General Meeting, Spring Auction

April 16 GROS show setup 1pm-5pm

April 19 GROS show tear down 4pm-5pm

Apr 19 General Meeting, Jeff Hackett on Potting & Media

May 1 STOS Orchid Show
Setup 2pm-7pm

May 2 STOS Orchid Show
Judging 8am-11am, Public 11am-6pm

May 3 STOS Orchid Show
Public 10am-4:30pm, Takedown 4:30p-6p

May 17 General Meeting, Repotting Workshop

Summer Picnic August 16 (possible date)

Sept 20 Fall Auction

Oct 18 Speaker from Flask and Flora

Nov 15 Speaker from J&L Orchids

Dec 20 Holiday Party

Show Results

To see all show Results go to
[STOS Results](#)

Treasurer's Report

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for your efforts to put on another excellent show! I want to thank everyone who volunteered at the welcome desk: Paula Matienzo, Gail Gunsalus, Karen Doolittle, Amy Carlson, Sue Szcotzka, and anyone else I didn't mention!

Your efforts amounted to:

~483 admissions

~20 new members

\$819 in raffle tickets sold

-lots of excellent feedback surveys!

What was new?

-We used purple wristbands for crowd management in lieu of handstamps, this allowed for seamless re-entry for guests.

-Applying 3% to card transactions, this allows the society to protect our net revenue since we cannot take card fees as a deduction.

-Merch! This is a separate venture from the show--we will still sell merchandise through the upcoming meeting, so those revenues will be reported later.

If you have suggestions for next year, feel free to let me know at stosorchids.treasurer@gmail.com.

I will issue a separate show report and guest satisfaction breakdown once all entries are finalized.

I hope to see you at repotting,
Mari Stover-Ling



Magnets



Tote Bag



Wine Glass

Merchandise will be available for sale at the May meeting. Please show your support of our club.



T-Shirt



STOS Show Winner

Hello STOS Members,

WOW! Never in a million years would I have ever imagined that *my* orchid could win Best in Show. Next year, this could be you! I have been growing orchids for *less than 5 years*. I do not have the wealth of experience and knowledge that many of our other members have.

I joined STOS last year at the annual show. Never before had I seen such beautiful displays of blooms, alight with captivating scents and colors – I was hooked! I've already grown so much on my orchid journey through the amazing connections made within the club. I cannot thank club members enough for their encouragement, engagement, and advice over this last year.



Julia MacCabe holding Phragmipedium Mt. Fallu which garnered First in Class, Best of Alliance, and Best in Show

My favorite memory of the show this year was a moment when I decided to be brave. Someone was looking at my orchid for an extended time, so I engaged them and offered to answer their questions. I got the feeling they were just as shy as me, and for a few moments we just stood there in silence together. Eventually we talked about growing phragmipediums (South American slipper orchids) and how they had always wanted to try. Later that day I observed them making a single purchase: an orchid that would grow up to be like mine. It felt like that plant was destined to go home with them, and that I had played my small part in forging that connection. The smile on their face said it all.

If I could offer one piece of advice for new growers like me out there, it would be this: grow intentionally, and grow with love. Just as we are all individuals of the same species, our plants are also individuals, even within their alliances. Growing a winning orchid is an act of intentional love. If I can do it, you can do it too.

With love,
Julia

This Beautiful Native Orchid Information was designed by Julia MacCabe and displayed at our Show.

Native Orchids of New York State

Field reference guide for several native orchids occurring in New York State with habitat and pollination ecology notes. Please tread carefully when observing wild orchids. Created by STOS, 2026.

Pink Lady's-Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)



Julia MacCabe, "Cypripedium acaule,"
Licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0



NY Range: Widespread in NY; Adirondacks, Catskills, Long Island pine barrens
Flowering: May–June (2–3 weeks)
Habitat Notes: Acidic pine and mixed hardwood forests
Pollination Ecology: Large bees; bees enter pouch and exit past stigma and anthers



Tom Gulya (iNaturalist), "Cypripedium reginae,"
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Showy Lady's-Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)

NY Range: Northern NY, especially Adirondacks and wet meadows
Flowering: Late May–June (2–3 weeks)
Habitat Notes: Calcareous fens, swamps, wet meadows
Pollination Ecology: Bumblebees; pouch traps bee briefly, forcing pollen transfer



Native Orchids of New York State



Smokeybear33 (iNaturalist),
"Platanthera blephariglottis,"
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White Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*)

NY Range: Scattered bogs across NY
Flowering: July–August (3–4 weeks)
Habitat Notes: Acidic sphagnum bogs and peatlands
Pollination Ecology: Nocturnal moths; long nectar spur matches moth proboscis

Nodding Lady's-Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*)

NY Range: Throughout NY in open meadows
Flowering: August–September (3–5 weeks)
Habitat Notes: Fields, roadsides, moist meadows
Pollination Ecology: Small bees attracted



Alan Weakly (iNaturalist),
"Spiranthes cernua,"
no rights reserved CC0

Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)

NY Range: Eastern & Central NY wetlands
Flowering: June–July (4 weeks)
Habitat Notes: Bogs, wet prairies, marsh edges
Pollination Ecology: Bees; deceptive lip tips bee onto pollinia



Michael D. Warriner (iNaturalist),
"Calopogon tuberosus,"
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New York Bloom Calendar

| Species | May | June | July | Aug | Sept |
|------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Pink Lady's-Slipper | ● | ● | | | |
| Showy Lady's-Slipper | ● | ● | | | |
| Grass Pink | | ● | ● | | |
| White Fringed Orchid | | | ● | ● | |
| Nodding Lady's-Tresses | | | | ● | ● |



People at the STOS Show



A Big Welcome from Luke Engel



Sue Szcotzka and Mari



Show visitors and members



Bernice at her vanilla table



Fun at the Children's Table



Luis Matienzo, Anitra Murphy and Laila Nashir

Unusual Orchids at STOS Show



Photos by Julia MacCabe

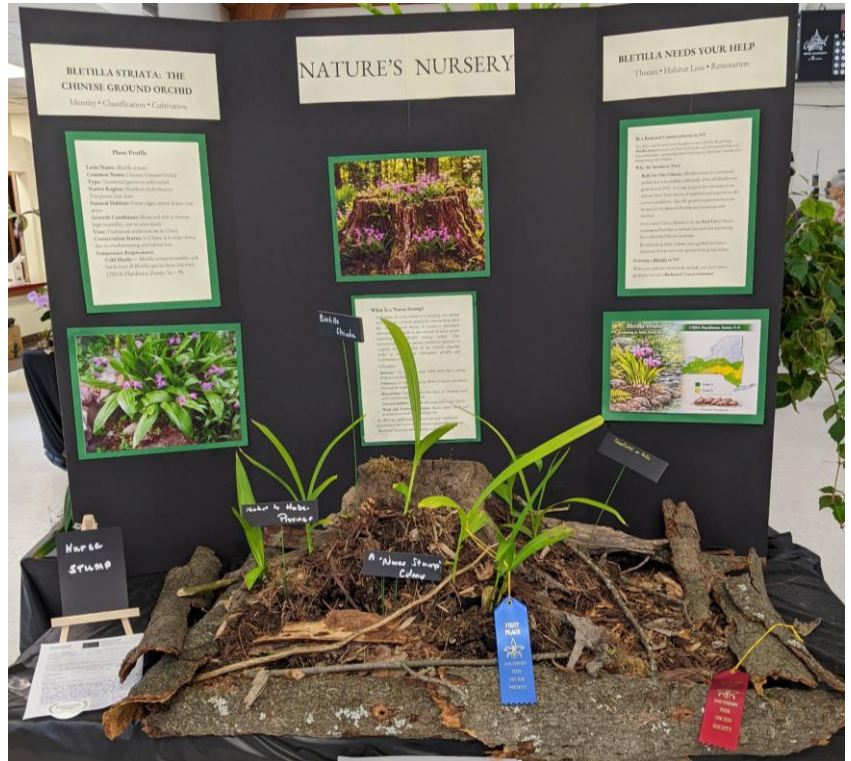
Exhibit Winners at the STOS Show



Laurel Shaefer's new business, Granny's Orchids exhibit won First Place in the 4 ft category. She provided the plants and materials, but Laila Nashir did the design.

AOS Educational Award: Nature's Nursery

"Nature's Nursery," earned an AOS score of 85. The exhibit featured seven live *Bletilla striata* in a naturalistic forest floor display centered around a nurse stump. This presentation educated the public on the culture and conservation of this hardy terrestrial orchid that can grow in New York state. The display was designed, planned, and materials sourced by Linda Mittel. Carly Creed, a new member, assisted Linda with the set up by recreating a native floor habitat and was key to the success of this exhibit.



More STOS Exhibits at our Show



STOS-1 won Second Place and was designed by Luis Matienzo, Melissa Benett, Liliana Jara and Julia MacCabe.



Jean Mint, Sam Hance, and Jeff Hackett combined their blooming orchids in this exhibit.



STOS-2, members brought so many plants they needed a second exhibit to show them all. Designed by Joanne Higgins, Laila Nashir and Linda Mittel.



My exhibit didn't win any awards, but it garnered a lot of attention with the large Escargot begonia. Carol B



STOS at the GROS 50th Anniversary Show

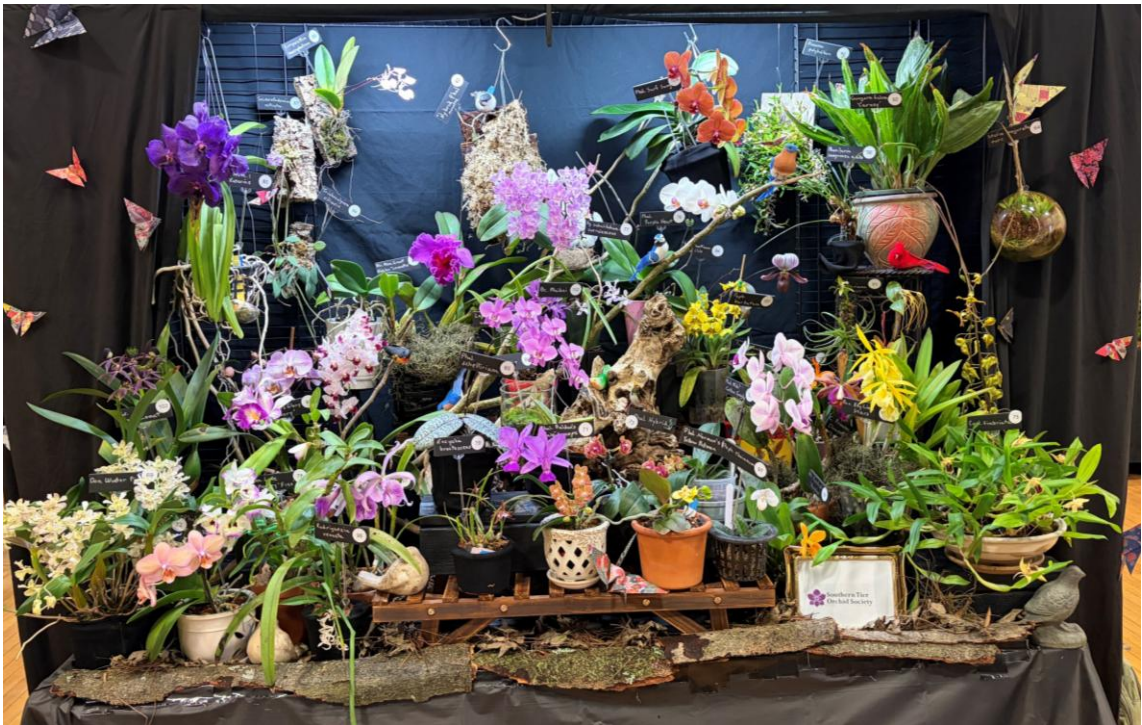
The Southern Tier Orchid Society participated in the Greater Genesee Regional Orchid Society (GROS) 50th Anniversary Show in Rochester, NY on April 16-19.

Setup and Theme

Setup began on **April 16th** with members **Jane Trey, Carol Bayles, Linda Mittel**, and a new member, **Laila Nashir**. Birds were a theme featured throughout the exhibit, along with origami butterflies made by Laila.

We displayed **42 plants** from several members, including **Angel Caoile, Carol Bayles, Christine Chin, Jane Trey, Jean Mint, Jeff Hackett, and Linda Mittel**.

The GROS setup has been handled by Jane Trey and Carol Bayles with help from Colin Dimon for many years, and we appreciate their continued dedication. This year and last, Linda Mittel also helped. We were excited to have additional help this year from Laila, who brought a great design perspective. This was Laila's first time seeing the inner workings of a major show, and she was very helpful with the artistic layout and design.



STOS Exhibit at the GROS Show set up by Linda, Carol, Laila and Jane



Jane Trey won First in Class and Best Windowsill Grown for Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure'



Linda Mittel won First in Class and Best Amateur Grown Award for Den. Winter Pixie

The Southern Tier Orchid Society took home a **Second Place ribbon** for the exhibit, placing out of four society entries.

Two STOS members also received top honors: **Best Amateur Grown Plant: Linda Mittel** for *Dendrobium* 'Winter Pixie', and **Best Windowsill Grown Plant: Jane Trey** for *Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope. For all Results, see [GROS Results](#).

Supporting Our Neighbors

STOS attends their show annually to support the GROS society and in return they always have a display at our show. Exhibiting at neighboring societies' shows enhances the show for everyone and is a common practice among societies. Central New York OS also comes to our show and we display at theirs, though they haven't had a show for a few years. Please consider helping with the GROS setup next year to learn more about how these exhibits are put together.

--Linda Mittel, President

Show Off Table

A Quick Note on a Reliable Species:

Paphiopedilum barbigerum (Tang & Wang)

This paphiopedilum or lady slipper was initially discovered in China around 1940. More recently, it was re-discovered in China and it has been available in the market since 1987. Its habitat extends from China to Vietnam.

Paph. barbigerum is an easy plant to flower under lights or a windowsill. In contrast to other paphiopedilum species, it is a compact plant with a reliable flowering during the Fall months. The flowers have a dorsal sepal that is mostly white with a touch of pink pigmentation. The pouch has ochre coloration and the lateral petals can contain a mixture of ochre and green pigmentation. This little jewel is worth trying to grow in a collection of orchid plants.



Luis J. Matienzo
(STOS May 2026)



Tiny flowers of *Restrepia brachypus*
(from Luis in 2022).

It blooms several times a year.

—Carol Bayles

