



November 2025

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

November Speaker: Beth Davis

What Is A Beth Plant?

Welcome to the Weird, Wacky, World of Orchids

Beth Davis is a fourth-generation orchid grower from Waldor Orchids located in Linwood, NJ. Waldor is family-owned and has been in business since 1925. Beth has worked at the greenhouses for over 30 years, doing many different jobs.

Beth enjoys just being in the greenhouses, repotting and taking care of the plants. She has a growing collection of her own, most are either species or the more unusual types of orchids. She is an American Orchid Society-accredited judge.

Along with her love of orchids, she does freelance floral design and gardening. Beth chaired the Ocean City Flower Show for 4 years and has worked with the International Amphibian Days Organization in Baltimore, MD. She also served on the Environmental Commission in her previous town and volunteered with Sustainable Monroe's Green Team.



If you spent any time in the greenhouses at Waldor, you might hear the phrase "that is a Beth plant." What is a Beth Plant? We will take a world tour as "Beth Plants" include the following families: Bulbophyllum, from Africa, Asia, and Latin America; Stanhopea, from Central and South America; and Dendrochilum from Southeast Asia.

This talk introduces a variety of orchid species and may include a repotting demo if time permits.

Beth will bring a variety of plants and you can pre-order if there is something you want. Go to www.Waldor.com to see what is available.

- **Don't order through the website. Instead, send your pre-order request directly to Beth at linwoodorchid@gmail.com**
- **You will get 10% off supplies.**
- **Plants are full price.**
- **If you don't see what you want, ask Beth if that plant is available.**

From the President

Hello STOS Members,

Can you believe it's been a year already since our 2024-2025 elections? Time truly flies! Please plan to attend our November 16th, 2pm meeting at the Johnson City Senior Center. This is a vital meeting as we look to the future, holding the election for our Officers and one Executive Board member-at-large. Your participation is key to the Southern Tier Orchid Society's leadership. Social Time will begin at 1:30 pm. Be sure to bring snacks to share.

Voting Details:

- The nominees are included in the newsletter on page 3.
- **In-person voting** will take place at the meeting.
- **Email votes** for those who cannot attend the meeting are accepted at stosorchids@gmail.com. The email must be sent by 11:59 pm on Nov 14, 2025 to be considered.

 **IMPORTANT:** Raffle CANCELED Show and Tell will be **ONLY** Show 

Due to the busy schedule with the regular meeting, election, and speaker, we will NOT have a raffle or Show **N Tell**.

You may bring blooming orchids for the Show Table, but please include a card with the orchid name and your name. You can use the plant tag, but you risk losing it. Also, many are illegible.

We encourage you to use this time to purchase outstanding Waldor's plants, speak directly with Beth, and connect with your STOS orchid friends.

Meeting Highlights & Important Reminders

- **Featured Speaker:** We are excited to welcome the fabulous and well-recognized Beth Davis from Waldor's Orchids!
- **Membership Dues:** A reminder that 2026 Membership Dues are now payable. Our new interim Treasurer will be available at the meeting to receive payments.
- **Committee Help:** Committee appointments and other positions are ongoing with the Executive Board. If you are interested in helping, please contact a member or email STOSorchids@gmail.com.

Please check the website at www.southerntierorchids.org for full details on upcoming events and society updates.

I look forward to seeing you on November 16th!

Sincerely,

Linda Mittel

President, Southern Tier Orchid Society

Time to Vote for Officers for 2025

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR STOS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Nominating Committee presents the names of candidates for the various open positions for the year 2026:

President: Linda Mittel
Vice-president: LuAnn Myers
Secretary: Melissa Bennett
Treasurer: Mari Stover-Ling
AOS Representative: Polly Dillon
Member at Large: Jean Mint (2026-2028 cycle)

If any member wishes to apply for any of these positions, please submit your name before or during the STOS November 16, 2025 meeting. **Votes will be taken at this meeting.**

The nominating committee
Paula R. and Luis J. Matienzo

VOTING VIA EMAIL

If you will not be at the meeting on November 16, you can vote via email. Please send your vote to stosorchids@gmail.com Email votes must be sent by November 14th by 11:59 pm.

Any questions or comments please contact Linda Mittel (stosorchids@gmail.com)

Note: Member-at-Large is a 3-year term. One of the three members is voted in every year. Current members-at-large are: Jeff Hackett, 2025-2027 and Gail Gunsalus, 2024-2026



Tolumnia noid – Angela Caoile

Time for Membership Dues

Dues for 2026 are:

\$25 per individual or

\$30 for a family or household.

They can be paid online at

www.southerntierorchids.org under Member Info or via cash, check or credit card at any meeting.

Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

Ruth Allen

Treasurer

Joe Snizek, Mari Stoverling-Ingel (training)

Secretary

Melissa Bennett (interim)

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

Jeff Hackett

Loi X Tran

Gail Gunsalus

Auction Committee Jean Mint, Jeff Hackett

IT Specialist Melissa Bennett

Librarian Laurel Shaefer

Marketing TBD

Membership Melissa Bennett, Anitra Murphy

Newsletter Editor Jeff Hackett

Program Coordinator Jean Mint

Social Event Ruth Allen, Jane Trey

Social Media Loi Tran, Renee DePrato,
Jean Mint

Show Chair Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

Web Master Carol Bayles

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Email addresses:

STOSorchids@gmail.com

STOSorchids.auction@gmail.com

STOSorchids.marketing@gmail.com

STOSorchids.membership@gmail.com

STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com

STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com

Google Group (Listserv)

STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

STOS Calendar 2025

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 19** General Meeting in Person
Speaker Ray Barkalow on Orchid Nutrition
- Feb 16** General Meeting
Speaker Tim Culbertson on Holcoglossums
- Mar 16** General Meeting
Spring Auction
1pm Speaker Clark Riley on Greenhouse Talk
- Apr 11** STOS Orchid Show;
Setup 2pm-7pm
- Apr 12** STOS Orchid Show;
STOS 7:30a, Judging 8a-11a, Public 11a-6p
- Apr 13** STOS Orchid Show
Public 10a-4:30p, Takedown 4:30p-6p
- May 18** General Meeting
Repotting Workshop
- June** Summer Recess
- July** Summer Recess
- Aug 17** Summer Picnic
- Sep 21** General Meeting
Fall Auction – In Person
- Oct 19** General Meeting
~~Officer Election~~
Speaker Bob Sprague
- Nov 16** General Meeting
Officer Election
Speaker Beth Davis
- Dec 21** Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE

2026 STOS Annual Show at the
Johnson City Senior Center
30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY 13790
May 1st, 2nd, & 3rd

Meeting Minutes

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2025

Meeting: General Membership Meeting

Date: October 19, 2025

Time: Called to Order at 2 PM

Location: Johnson City Senior Center

Presiding Officer: Linda Mittel, President

Recording Officer: Melissa Bennett, Interim Secretary

35 members signed in and attended the meeting.

The meeting was called to order to ensure a prompt start for the Speaker immediately following the session.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report

Notes from the last general meeting were posted to the October newsletter and were distributed to the membership. The president called for corrections, and, since there were none expressed, the minutes stood approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Joe Sniezek** filed the Treasurer's Report. Our current Savings Balance ~ \$14,186. A final report will be available at the end of October 2025. The report was accepted as presented.

New Business

Introduction of interim Treasurer, Mari Stover-Ling

Mari Stover-Ling was appointed to serve as interim Treasurer once Joe Sniezek's term is completed on October 31st.

Nominations of Officers for 2026 term

Paula Matienzo read out the slate of candidates seeking nomination, viz.:

President - Linda Mittel

Vice-President - Luanne Meyers

Secretary - Melissa Bennett

Treasurer - Mari Stover-Ling

AOS Representative - Polly Dillon

Member-at-Large - Julia McCabe

Paula requested that anyone who opposed to speak. There being no objections to the proposed slate of nominees, there was general agreement to consider them nominated. The President then announced that the election would take place formally at the November General Meeting, but that members would be able to vote by email, as well as in person.

Meeting Minutes, cont.

Committee Reports

Jeffrey Hackett, Show Committee Report

Jeffrey Hackett reported that the committee was very quickly ramping up, getting ready for the 2026 show. He called out for help with reaching out to different vendors, and with advertising and marketing. The effort would essentially involve taking or making phone calls and writing emails.

Carol Bayles, Newsletter Announcement

Carol Bayles announced her assumption of the role of newsletter editor and called out for submissions of content to the newsletter. She will also continue in her role as webmaster.

Mini-Meetings Announcement

Interim Secretary Melissa Bennett announced the scheduling of the first Fall Mini-Meetings on October 29 and November 19.

The Show Table was presented, followed by the Raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM

Invited Speaker, Robert Sprague, a member of the Native Orchid Conference Inc., presented a talk on "A Conservation Project in Progress in a Most Unlikely Place".
The talk was well-received.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Bennett, Secretary (Interim)
Linda Mittel, President.

Note: These minutes are for review by the members and other interested parties and have not yet been approved by the General Membership.

Note: after the meeting, the nominee for Member-at-Large withdrew and was replaced by Jean Mint.



To members:
How do you like the Newsletter? Is the font too small? Hard to read? Is it too long? Too short? I am open to changes. Let me know at STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com
--Carol Bayles, Editor

Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.) Mari's Glory
'Avery' – Linda Mittel

Mini-Meeting News

This October, we had our first Fall Mini-Meeting on artificial light. Nine members attended, including four new members. It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know each other a bit better. We talked for over an hour about measuring light with light meters, LED light basics, symptoms of light stress and deciphering the different units used for measuring light.

You can still sign up for the mini-meeting on **November 19 Wednesday at 7PM**
Mechanics of Watering



How do people with hundreds of plants manage to water them all without messing up their house or breaking their backs? Getting water from the faucet to orchid roots is probably the most labor intensive activity we do to grow our orchids. Let's share our own useful tips, and learn from some of our own local expert members!

So [sign up](#) soon if you want to join us!

New December Mini-Meeting on **Wednesday December 10 at 7PM**
Orchid Propagation: From One to Many



"My orchid made a seed pod! What do I do?"



"I think I have a keiki...how long do I leave it on the mother plant?"

From dividing to flasking, let's explore the different ways our favorite plants can be propagated!

Mini-Meeting News

Here's the link to sign up for any of our Mini-Meetings: [Signup Form](#).

Remember, once you have signed up, you can edit your response anytime, if you want to sign up for more Mini-Meetings, or if you need to cancel another. Just remember to hit the **Submit** button at the bottom to save any changes.

You can email me if you have any problems using the signup form, or if you have any questions or suggestions.

Hope to see you at a Mini-Meeting soon!

Melissa

root.to.shoot.mb@gmail.com



Oncidium Pacific Sunrise Hakalau
— Melissa Bennett



Blc. Loud Nine 'Dogashima' AM/AOS x
Slc. Cosmic Delite 'Cosmic Sparks'
From Wade at the STOS show 2025
— Carol Bayles

What's New from the AOS



Welcome to the American Orchid Society (AOS) 2025 Fall Auction!

This year's auction features a wonderful selection of award-winning plants, donated by exceptional growers, along with unique orchid experiences, artwork, and other orchid-related treasures.

Your participation makes a real difference. Proceeds from the auction help enhance the AOS member experience and strengthen our three core pillars: Education, Conservation, and Research.

When placing your bids, please consider covering the credit card processing fee—this simple gesture helps your donation go even further in supporting the work we all care about.

<https://aos.betterworld.org/auctions/american-orchid-society-fall-292>

Important Notes:

Auction ends on Nov. 8

Shipping is available only within the United States.

Plants may be shipped without flowers or spikes.

Shipments may be delayed because of extreme cold weather to ensure plant safety.

Now, sit back, browse through the amazing items so generously donated by our AOS friends, and bid often!

Thank you for your support and happy bidding!



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



Deadwood-Decomposing Fungi Feed Germinating Orchids*

By Linda Stewart | October 8, 2025 | Kobe University Research Spotlight



Source: INUI Kazuki

Close-up of *Crematropa variabilis* seedlings (white) entwined with fungal hyphae near decaying wood, illustrating how wood-decomposing fungi sustain seedling growth.

New research from Kobe University reveals a remarkable partnership between orchids and fungi that thrive on decaying logs. These wood-decomposing fungi provide the vital carbon that orchid seeds lack, helping them grow in the dark forest floor where nutrients are scarce.

“Studying orchid germination in nature is notoriously difficult,” explains plant evolutionary ecologist Suetsugu Kenji. “We repeatedly found orchid seedlings near decaying logs, not scattered randomly. That inspired us to test whether deadwood fungi fuel orchid beginnings.”

The study found that seeds buried near decomposing logs were far more likely to germinate than those elsewhere, and that the seedlings formed exclusive partnerships with the fungi found on those logs. This reveals a new ecological link between deadwood and orchid life cycles. The findings also shed light on how certain orchids evolve to live entirely off fungi, a lifestyle known as full mycoheterotrophy, where plants stop photosynthesizing and feed on fungi their entire lives.

Suetsugu concludes, “Protecting wild orchids is inseparable from protecting deadwood and its fungi. Deadwood is not dead—it is a cradle of new life.”

Funding for this study was provided by the Japan Science and Technology Agency and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

<https://www.the-microbiologist.com/news/deadwood-decomposing-fungi-feed-germinating-orchids/6970.article>

*Taken from the latest Waldor Orchids newsletter

Haunted Blooms: Orchids That Bring Halloween to Your Collection*

As we enter the October season, when ghosts, ghouls and eerie decorations come alive, the world of orchids offers its own share of mysterious beauty. Some species seem to step directly out of a gothic garden, making them perfect for those who want a dramatic, spooky twist in their plant collection. Below are several orchids that capture the darker, more haunting side of nature.



Dracula simia ("Monkey Face Orchid")

This orchid's unique flower resembles a little monkey's face at once intriguing and uncanny. The genus name *Dracula* means "little dragon," giving it added drama. Its unusual appearance makes it a standout in a Halloween-themed display.



Dendrophylax lindenii (Ghost Orchid)

This leafless orchid appears to float mid-air, giving it a spooky, ghost-like presence. Native to swampy forests and with a fragile natural habitat, it embodies the mysterious side of orchids. It's perfect for a haunting botanical centerpiece.

**Taken from the latest Waldor Orchids newsletter*

Orchid Fun



Fredclarkeara 'After Dark' – “The Black Orchid”

One of the darkest hybrids known, this orchid's deep violet-black flowers shine with an otherworldly gloss. A perfect gothic accent for your fall display."



Masdevallia veitchiana ('Strawberry Dracula')

With long, fang-like sepals and vivid coloring, this orchid is dramatic and other-worldly. Its common “Dracula” association makes it a fun choice for themed collections.



Show Table - Luis Matienzo



Scaphosepalum breve
(Epidendreae subtribe Pleurothallidinae -AOS)



Phragmipedium Pink Panther (*Phrag. schlimii*
x fischeri)



Paphiopedilum Dottie McDowell
'Hampshire' AM/AOS



Paphiopedilum barbigerum f. *lockianum*

Show Table – Angela Caoile



Cattleya Sacramento Splash



Haraella retrocalla



Cattleya Mini Purple Coerulea 4N x
C. mossiae f. coerulea 4N



Warczewiczella amazonica

Show Table – Julia Gillis



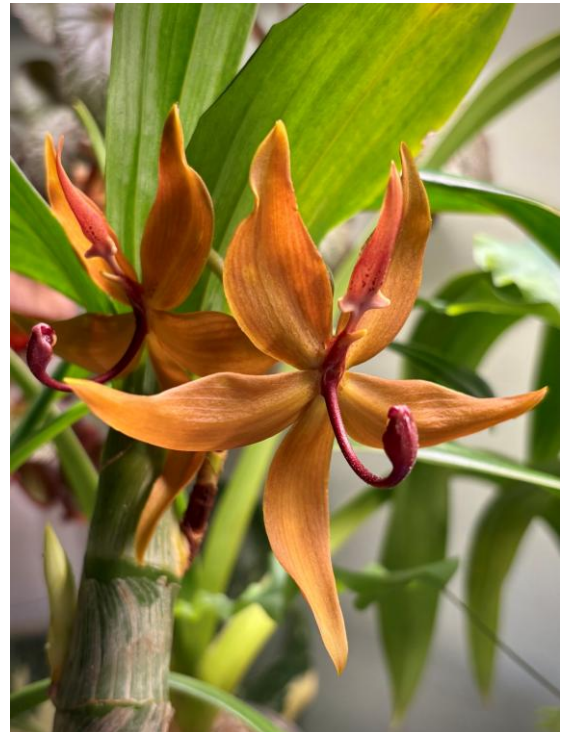
Miltoniopsis Rene Komodo 'Pacific Clouds'
second bloom, moderately fragrant, smells like
sweet roses



Phalaenopsis No ID purchased 3 years ago from Trader Joe's

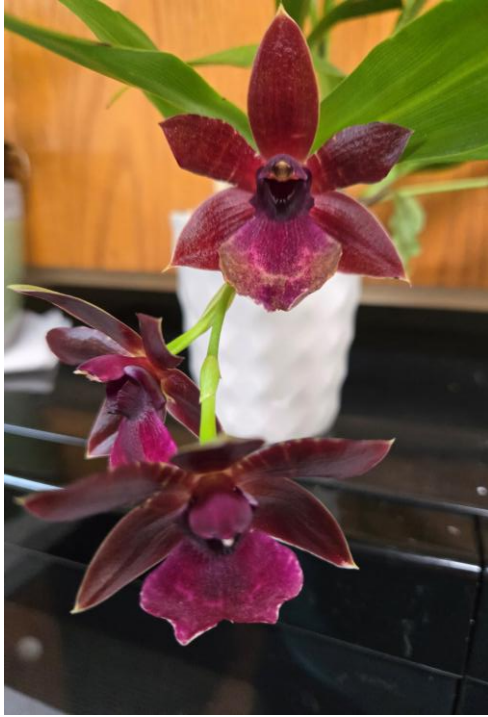


Clowesetum JEM's Speckled Russ (primary hybrid
between *Clowesia russelliana* x *Catasetum*
denticulatum), mildly fragrant, nice scent



Cycnoches Alexis Jesus Pardo 'SVO' x
Cyc. cooperi, strong but terrible
chemical/menthol smell

Show Table



Propetalum (Pptm.) La Jolla Delight 'Hilo Orchid Farm' AM/AOS from STOS Sept auction. "I love the color" – Anne Quain



Oncidium (Onc.) Tsiku Marguerite from the STOS Spring auction. It has 7 spikes. – Chris Lewis-King



No id (*Cattleya*-type)
– Laurel Shaefer



Greenhouse is finally getting somewhere
– Laurel Shaefer

