

Southern Tier Orchid Society

September 2020

[HTTP://WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG](http://www.southerntierorchids.org)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Late Summer Greetings to all STOS members,

This newsletter and subsequent emails will have to stand in for our lack of getting together this fall. It is a poor substitute, but it will have to do for now. I hope many of you have something in bloom and have shared a photo or 2 with us. See the virtual Show Table in this newsletter. As this pandemic continues to threaten us, many of us feel very isolated. We miss the comradery of meeting with friends, relatives and co-workers, the chance to go to cultural events like concerts and theater, we miss visiting museums and even attending meetings. Perhaps many of you are using this time to take better care of yourselves, eating right, exercising and getting plenty of fresh air. I hope so. I also hope many of you are using this time to take better care of your orchids, and using the internet to learn more about them. If you haven't been to the American Orchid Society website lately, do it soon. You don't need to be a member to take advantage of their information.

Although the STOS won't be actually meeting this fall, we do have business to take care of, and we hope you all will take the time to read our newsletters and emails and respond to them. We also would like to have a little fun and are starting a "Question of the Month" for everyone to answer. Answers will be compiled and published in the next newsletter. If anyone would like to help with this, I would be very grateful.

Emails to our STOS address Southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com are only accessible to Bbard members and a few others who have the password, not the whole group. Feel free to communicate with us anytime. We would love to hear from you.

- Carol Bayles, President

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

We encourage you to peruse the AOS website. They are offering more free seminars and other info to the general public, in addition to the wealth of information always available without a membership. Here is a very interesting lesson:

Orchid Culture: Watering, by Stephen Batchelor
Learn the why's, when's and how's of watering your orchids...

- Underwatering and overwatering (overwatering is one of the leading causes of orchid death) and how to survive both
- What your orchids' roots are teaching you about watering
- Conditions that impact watering frequency
- When and how to water"

<https://www.aos.org/courses/email-course/watering.aspx> (downloadable pdf with photos)

AOS ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

I have seven back issues of AOS ORCHIDS magazine just waiting for you to open and be surprised!

Each magazine is wrapped in plastic and sealed. I do not know which issue is in each. If you are interested in borrowing a copy of ORCHIDS, please send me your name and address and I will forward it to you via postal service.

First come, first serve. Please return the copy of the club's magazine when we resume in-person meetings. In the meantime, enjoy one of the latest ORCHIDS magazines with its beautiful photographs and helpful articles.

Interested? Send your mailing address to me at magee.bernice@gmail.com

- Bernice Magee, AOS Representative

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Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed! Contributions must be submitted by the 5th of the month to the editor.

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyInc.1992>

Email:

southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com



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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

From your collection, which orchid is your favorite and why?

If you don't have an absolute favorite, pick one you like that has a good story behind it. We hope to hear from all of you.

Email your answer to Southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com

MAY MEETING MINUTES

Our May meeting was cancelled due to NYS PAUSE, which banned all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason.

CLUB CANCELLATIONS

New York State continues to restrict large gatherings. All Southern Tier Orchid Society activities that were planned for September have been cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS

At this point we don't want to rehash any old business, but we do have new business to share.

I have taken on the role of Web Master. This is something I always wanted to learn to do but never had the time or need. Well, now there is need and I can make the time. The new WIX site is pretty easy and Joe has done a great job putting it together. In the beginning I will just keep it updated, but eventually I will change some pictures and add my own sparkle. Check it out at www.SouthernTierOrchids.org. Note that the new site is '.org' and the old site was '.com'. Be sure to click on the '.org' site. If the site seems slow, try using Chrome rather than Firefox or Safari.

The Board has been revising the Bylaws, with the goal of better outlining the duties and responsibilities of the officers and committee chairs and putting in place policies for voting via email, as well as some minor changes. The updated Bylaws must be approved by the general membership. We hope to send the document to everyone via email and allow time for comments and revisions, and then vote via email and we hope to do this before elections this fall. We will need as many members as possible to participate in the vote.

We will have elections in December as usual, with nominations for positions in November. The Bylaws require a nominating committee, approved by the membership. Anyone who would like to be on this committee should send an email to Southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com. Board members cannot be on this committee, but we are available for consultation.

All officer positions are for one year and they must be re-elected every year. The three board members-at-large are 3-year terms, with one expiring every year. Currently several positions are vacant: that of Vice-President and 2 board members at large. There may be others, including some committee chairs. Please consider getting more involved with the club by running for one of these positions. The club cannot operate without people to run it. We encourage newer members as well as long-time members, even those of you who have held positions in the past, to step up. If all positions are filled, there is less work for everyone. And hopefully, the club will be 'working' again next year.

- Carol Bayles, President

STOS LIFE AND DEATH

With orchids the struggle for life relies on proper care, nourishment, and a balanced comfortable environment. As best we can sometimes that is not always enough to have a healthy plant. Fortunately our club has the best resource of experience for advice on maintaining the best outcome for orchids in our care. In so many stores you can see orchids being sold in sometimes unlikely places. Because of that there will always be a need for the Southern Tier Orchid Society.

When I am out and about wearing my STOS shirt, people many times notice it and ask about orchids. We have had a few come to our meeting as a result of an encounter at Wegmans.

This COVID 19 pandemic reminds us that not only are orchids subject to sometimes fatal sickness, but so is humanity. Some neighbors bought the house across the street and they smoke cigarettes on their front porch. Probably at least 100 feet away the smell of cigarettes comes in my open windows. From the massive numbers of illness and lives lost, I think 6 feet distance is probably not enough. May you all be safe, sanitary, and healthy.

We took a walk around Lakeside campground in Windsor while visiting a family member (wearing masks). On our walk, at a walkway leading to a seasonal camper, there was planted in the ground an orchid. It looked healthy and robust, fully bloomed in a mostly shaded location. Rare to see outdoor orchids planted in the ground. There are no limits to the beauty, flexibility, and variety of orchids.

- Ben Cabot, Secretary

JOE SNIEZEK

Joe Sniezek, long time member and diligent web designer, is leaving the club as of Sept. 1.

It is time for me to step aside from the STOS organization. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being a part of the organization over the past 15+ years. The wonderful personalities and passions for growing orchids is hard to beat in many of our near regional areas. True experts that I have had the pleasure to know and associate with. I always looked forward to that 3rd Sunday of the month to shine down a ray of sunshine on life with its constant reminder that we should always look for the light-heartedness in any endeavor.

I wish the Southern Tier Orchid Society the very best for the future with hopes that the organization will grow this passion that burns within us.

- Joe Sniezek

LORI CABOT

I have just heard from Ben Cabot (current Secretary and past President) that his wife (long-time club member) Lori Cabot has been diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. It is very small, and they say not to worry, but please keep Lori in your thoughts and prayers.

SEEKING ADVICE

Our Daughter in Law gave us this orchid. Earlier in the year it had many white blooms on it. The plant has a long bent dowel, and the plant is growing downward which seems peculiar. I believe I saw a youtube video that suggested cutting off the main stem, but we are waiting to see if talking nice to it, and singing pleasant songs help it bloom again. (We don't keep it on the stove.) What do you think? Ideas appreciated!
lorrlorr@yahoo.com — Lori & Ben Cabot



A VIRTUAL DISPLAY OF FLOWERING PLANTS AT OUR HOME - L.J. Matienzo

As an avid orchid grower and having been trained in technical fields, I always try to do experiments even when raising orchids. Some of these may lead me to successes and others to failures. And with several years of experience, I still want to find out if orchids can perform well away from their typical habitats. My collection consists mainly of miniatures, species and slippers, hybrids and species, from Asia and the Americas, which are grown under lights.

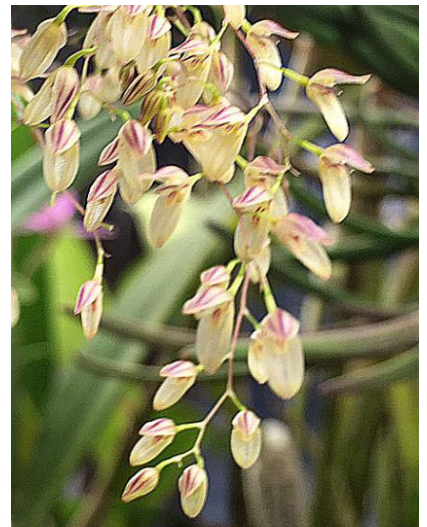
I include below some plants that have flowered at home recently. The images were taken with an iPhone camera or a Canon Rebel XS EOS 1000D Digital SLR with no flash.

I am sure that others would like to see more images of flowers, for this reason I invite you to submit some of your pictures to be included in our newsletter. With the examples below you can see that even with a less sophisticated imaging device you can take good pictures. By doing so, other members can also see your plants and enjoy them as much as you do.

SPECIES:

Pleurothallis grobii:

This plant is quite compact and grows on a fern bark mount. The species is found from Mexico and Belize and through most of Central America. The flowers, quite numerous, appear on very narrow spikes in June and stay on the plant for 3 to 4 weeks. The image on the left illustrates the typical appearance of the flowering plant and the right image is a closer view to the flowers.

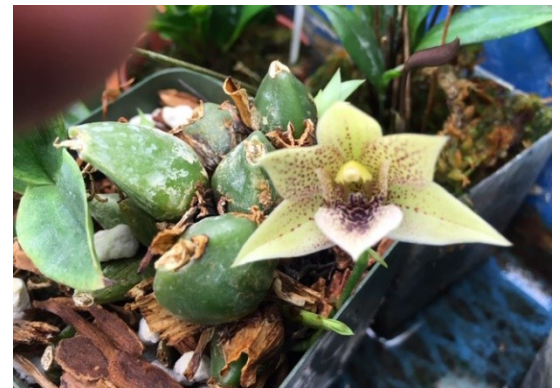


Restrepia brachypus:

The genus *restrepia* is mostly found from Venezuela to Peru but a few members also exist in Central America. Most *restrepias* look alike with very slight differences on their lips' markings and coloration and they resemble small insects. They can flower at any time of the year under intermediate conditions. Propagation, unlike other orchids, can be made through leaves that can easily root.

Promeneas riograndensis 'Veracruz' CBR/AOS

Promeneas are a genus of orchids that are mainly found in Brazil. About 15 to 20 species exist. They are typically plants with small pseudo-bulbs and the flower spikes are short with 1 or 2 flowers that appear during our summer season. The photograph shows an image of a relatively recently recognized species found in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Because the plant was taxonomically verified, it carries the CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition) award from AOS. This plant is an actual division of the awarded plant with the clonal name 'Veracruz'.



***Prostecchia cochleata*'Luis'**

A plant commonly named the 'cockleshell orchid'. It is also known as orquidea negra (black orchid) in Cuba. The plant has undergone many taxonomic changes since the early 1800s when it was first described as *epidendrum cochleatum*. The flowering spikes appear from new pseudo-bulbs and they can contain several flowers, in my case, about 6 to 7 flowers. This species hails from Belize and it is the national flower of the country and has been featured in a stamp emitted by Belize in 1970. My plant and the stamp can be seen below.



***Dendrobium convolutum*'Matienzo'**

This is a letouria-type *dendrobium* species from Papua and New Guinea. Spikes can appear any time of the year and they carry on each spike 4 to 6 waxy greenish flowers with dark lips.

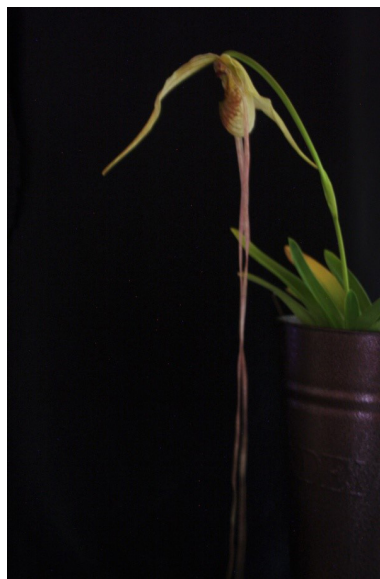
***Warzewiczella discolor*'Luis'**

This is a species that can be found from Central America to Peru. The genus is named after Josef Warcewicz, a Polish commercial orchid collector for Van Houtte (Belgium), a firm active in selling orchids in the mid 19th century. The plant is shown on its second flowering.



***Phragmipedium humboldtii*'Matienzo'**

This is a species that has yielded many disagreements among taxonomists but it is now a properly recognized species. The plant has a limited habitat range and it is found in the Chiriqui Mountains of Panama. The flowers resemble those of the South American species *phragmipedium caudatum* found in Peru but the plants are more compact and they are typically single flowered. The long dangling petals are about 20 inches long. The images below show a flower and also a closer view to the pouch of the flower.



HYBRIDS:

Encyclia Cindy

This is a cross a primary cross of *encyclia tampensis* x *encyclia elata*. A relatively reliable plant that yields 6 to 8 flowers per spike. Flowers are brown in color (contributed by *encyclia elata*) with some details showing lines on the petals.



Phragmipedium Memoria Dick Clements 'Matienzo'

This is a primary cross between *phrag. besseae* and *phrag. sargentianum*. The resulting flowers are red with a span of 3 inches. Each flowering spike has a minimum of 3 flowers. The multi-floral ability is contributed by *phragmipedium sargentianum*.

Phragmipedium Inca Embers 'Matienzo'

This plant is a hybrid of phrag. Andean Fire x *phrag. longifolium*. This is a second generation *phrag besseae* hybrid and still the red color from this parent predominates. This hybrid is multi-floral producing at least three sequential flowers per spike. The flowers are 5 inches across.



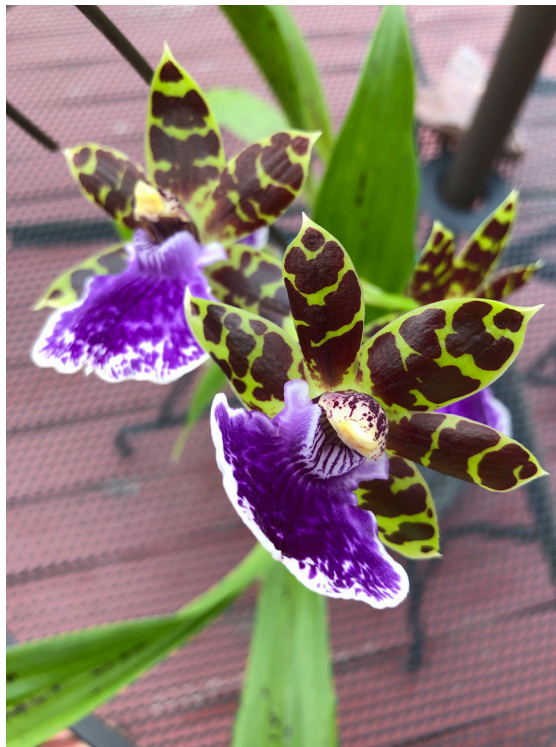
Paphiopedilum Red's Red 'Matienzo'

This is a complex paphiopedilum hybrid registered by A. Klehm in 2007. The parents of this cross are paph. Beauhill x paph. Lauren Klehm. This hybrid is the result of multi-generational hybridizing with 10 different species in its ancestry.

VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE



Blc Sunset Glory - From our 2015 auction - Jane Trey



Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack - Bernice Magee



BLC. Hsinying Willette - Bernice Magee



Brascidostele Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'

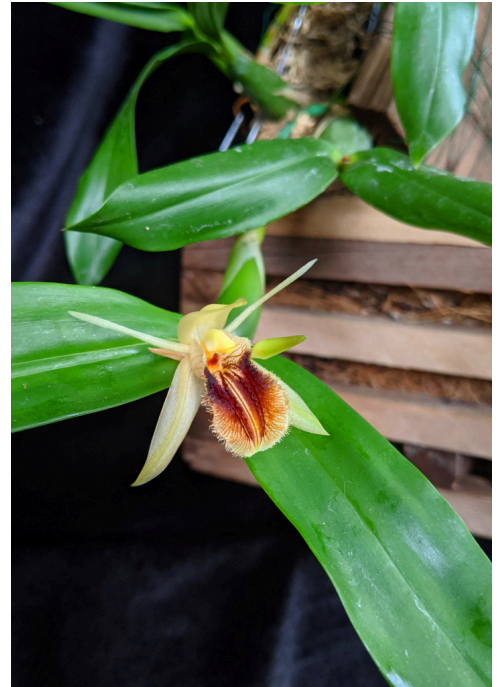
I have had this plant for 4 years and it has bloomed for both the STOS spring show and the CYNOS fall show. Now it is blooming in summer. It has 10 blossoms which all open quickly for simultaneous blooming. (Originally registered as a Banfieldara (Ada x Brassia x Odontoglossum), with the lumping of Odontoglossum sensu stricto into Oncidium, the removal of the Odontoglossum skinneri complex to Rhynchostele, and the lumping of Ada into Brassia, it is now a Brascidostele. Got that?) - Carol Bayles

VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE (CONTINUED)



Moccasin Flower, *Cypripedium acaule*

*I have discovered at least 2 locations in my area where pink Lady Slippers (Moccasin Flower, *Cypripedium acaule*) are growing. They bloom here in early-mid May. Next spring I will lead a field trip if anyone is interested in coming to the Dryden area to see them. -Carol Bayles*



***Coelogyne fuliginosa* aka Coel. Fimbriata**

I got this plant at a STOS auction a few years ago. It blooms (1 or 2 flowers) on each new growth and now that I am home and can spray it daily, I am getting more growth so hopefully, more blooms. The flowers are not that showy. - Carol Bayles



***Bulbophyllum makoyanum* - From our raffle table**

- Jane Trey

MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Cattleya - Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches - This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium - Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Dendrobium - This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bicktoniensis - Both *Rhynchostele bicktoniensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bicktoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip) and *roseum* (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum - Standard, green-leaved *paphiopedilums* begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis - The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande - Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

By Ned Nash and James Rose from the AOS website (<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/september-october-checklist.aspx>)