



January 2026

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

Next Meeting January 18 - 2pm-4pm

40th Year Anniversary--Member Appreciation Fun BINGO

We will play 3 games of Bingo, normal (straight line), boarder (O for Orchid), and full (bloom) card. All rules will be explained and there is no charge for the cards.



For the first 2 games we are asking for prize donations, orchids or orchid-related items. These would be instead of bringing raffle items, as we will not have a raffle. For the 3rd game we have special prizes purchased for this, some are pictured on this page.

Please let Jean know via this email if you have something to donate to help us plan:

stosorchids.auction@gmail.com

Other prizes include gift cards that can be used at our Show.



This will be a fun social time as well as a chance to take home an orchid. We want to show our appreciation to all of you in this our 40th year as an orchid society.

We will also have the Show and Tell so bring your bloomers.



**Orchid
Prizes**



**Orchid
Prizes**

Celebrating 40 Years Together



Dear Fellow Orchid Enthusiasts,

Welcome to 2026! As we step into the New Year, I am filled with an incredible sense of pride. This is a monumental year for us—**2026 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Southern Tier Orchid Society!**

For four decades, our society has been a place where passion and knowledge have bloomed side by side. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful organization, and I want to remind us all how much our kindness toward one another defines our success. As we grow our collections and knowledge, let's continue to grow our friendships, ensuring that every member—from the novice to the expert—feels the warmth and support of our community.

The Highlight of Our Year: The Annual Spring Show

The most significant event for our club is fast approaching! Please mark your calendars for May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for our Annual Spring Orchid Show. This is the absolute peak of our year—a magnificent opportunity to showcase our best blooms to the community and celebrate 40 years of horticultural excellence.

Volunteers: We Need Your Help!

An event of this magnitude—and a society this vibrant—cannot run without you. We genuinely need your help in all areas, from show setup and hospitality to helping with our monthly workshops. The contact emails for our various committee chairs are available right here in this newsletter. Please look through the areas that interest you and reach out!

If you have questions about how to get involved, please email **STOSorchids@gmail.com**. Your time and talent are the lifeblood of our club, and we would love to have you on board.

Supporting Our Mission

In addition to the show, we have a spectacular calendar planned to keep our society thriving:

Outstanding Guest Speakers & Workshops: We are bringing in top-tier experts for our regular meetings and hosting hands-on repotting sessions to help your collection flourish.

Spring & Fall Auctions: These are our **essential revenue streams**. They provide the funds necessary to host our world-class speakers and our May show. They are the perfect way to acquire rare additions for your collection while ensuring the financial health of our society.



Stay Connected

To make sure you don't miss a single moment of our anniversary year, please stay connected and check our society calendar frequently. We are making every effort to keep it updated, so please look there often for any changes or new updates to our schedule.

Forty years is a remarkable journey, and it is your dedication that has made it possible. I am honored to serve as your President during this landmark year, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our January meeting!

Happy Growing,

Linda Mittel
President
Southern Tier Orchid Society, Inc.



Spreading Sunshine



Just as orchids need time and care to rebound after stress, we know many of our members may be recovering from the flu. Wishing you renewed strength and better days ahead.

Anitra Murphy, Membership



STOS Needs YOU



Southern Tier Orchid Society is looking for volunteers with digital talents to promote STOS on **Facebook and/or Instagram**. You can work with our Newsletter/webmaster to share photos, event graphics, and society news.

STOS also needs another person or two for the **Social Event Committee**. Ruth Allen has been doing it for several years but she now has conflicts and would like to pass it on. The committee does the setup and cleanup of snacks and beverages for each meeting and coordinates the food at our annual show.

Contact one of the Board Members at the meeting or via
STOSorchids@gmail.com

If you are interested in helping. Getting involved is a good way to get to know more members and expand your role in the club.

Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

LuAnn Meyers

Treasurer

Mari Stover-Ling

Secretary

Melissa Bennett

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

Jeff Hackett

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

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

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

STOS Calendar 2025-2026

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

2025

Aug 17 Summer Picnic

Sep 21 General Meeting
Fall Auction – In Person

Oct 19 General Meeting
Speaker Bob Sprague

Nov 16 General Meeting
Officer Election
Speaker Beth Davis

Dec 21 Holiday Party

2026

Jan 18 General Meeting. Orchid Games

Feb 15 General Meeting, Speaker Jason Fisher

Mar 15 General Meeting, Spring Auction

Apr 1 General Meeting, Show Prep

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

SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 STOS
Annual Show
May 2-3**

Winter Blahs Show-and-Tell-and-Ask

Wednesday January 28 at 7PM



Do you have an orchid you are worried about? An orchid you are proud of?

Beat the winter blahs by signing up for this mini-meeting. We can show-and-tell each other about our orchids, and ask questions about them as well. No need for a precarious transport in frigid weather! This is also a great opportunity for you to get some help with a plant you are concerned about. Or just come to enjoy time with some midwinter blooms and with orchid friends.

I'll include a few tips to help you show your plant at its virtual best when I send out the Zoom link!

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

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

# *Meeting Minutes*

## **SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting:** General Membership Meeting

**Date:** December 21, 2025

**Location:** Johnson City Senior Center

Presiding Officer: Linda Mittel, President

Recording Officer: Melissa Bennett, Interim Secretary

The meeting was called to order @ 2:23PM. About 45 members and Zoom attendees attended the meeting.

### **Officers' Reports**

#### **Secretary's Report**

Notes from the last general meeting were posted to the December 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**

Interim Treasurer Mari Stover-Ling presented our monthly income statement as of November 30th. Our current Savings Balance is available by contacting the treasurer. Total income for the month was \$370 in membership dues, while expenses for meeting room rental, refreshments, and last month's speaker's fee, the Zoom and Constant Contact Licenses gave us a net income of negative \$217.30. The report was submitted in writing and accepted as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Show Committee Announcement**

Jean Mint previewed the plants she and Jeff purchased for the members' holiday gift plants for this year. She explained the sourcing and selection of the plants as well.

#### **President's Special Message**

Linda Mittel called out for special recognition some of the members who last year made significant volunteer efforts in support of the club, viz.: Ruth Allen, Chris Harrington, Joe Sniezek, Carol Bayles and Loi Tran. They were each given a little gift bag as a token of thanks.

# Meeting Minutes, cont.

## New Business

- Linda Mittel and Gail Gunsalus will continue to prepare the audit of our 2025 finances.
- It is hoped that a budget will be presented at the January or February meeting.
- Linda announced the scheduling of the next Executive Board meeting, to take place on January 16th, by Zoom. All members will be emailed the Zoom link, so that they can attend if they wish to.

## Adjournment

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned and the Holiday festivities began!

## 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.*

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Neighboring Societies and 2026 Shows

DCOS -- Deep Cut Orchid Society (Holmdel, NJ)

Show **Feb. 20-22** www.deepcutorchidsociety.org/show

NFOS – Niagara Frontier OS (Buffalo)

Spring Orchid Fest **March 6-8** www.buffalogardens.com/events/orchid-fest/#events

SEPOS – Southern PA Orchid Society (Oaks, PA)

Show **March 27-29** www.sepos.org/show

GROS – Genesee Region OS (Rochester)

Show **April 16-19** www.geneseeorchid.org/annual-orchid-show/

STOS – Show **May 1-3**

CNYOS – Central NY Orchid Society (Syracuse)

Albany Orchid Society (Albany, NY)

CPOS – Central PA OS (State College)

Lots of shows this winter to chase away the blues!

In the past STOS has organized trips to Deep Cut and SEPOS, each is easily a one-day trip.

Show & Tell: Legitimate Bragging Rights!

At the Southern Tier Orchid Society, Show and Tell time is a highlight of our meetings. It is a great time to learn, educate, and—let's be honest—enjoy some legitimate bragging rights! We love sharing our successes, challenges, and the unique stories behind our plants. To help everyone enjoy the blooms, here are a few quick tips for bringing your orchids to the meetings. Protect those delicate blooms from cold shock during the trip by wrapping them in a garbage bag or plastic wrap to insulate them from the biting air. You can also place the plant in a cardboard box covered with plastic, or use an insulated cooler to protect smaller plants.

We want to hear more about your blooming plants, so please use the microphone. To make things easier, we now have a helper to hold your plant and walk it around the room for a close-up view. This leaves you free to focus on the mic and your notes without having to juggle the plant. We can use more helper volunteers for this, by the way!

Help us learn about your orchids by including a few details on a piece of paper or an index card on the table with your plant. If you forget to bring one, the club will try to have cards available at the meeting so you can jot down the info, and we can all see the owner's and plant's name. When it is your turn, "show off" your plants and include:

The Name: The Genus (*Phalaenopsis*, *Paphiopedilum*, etc.) is most important. Having more information, such as the species or cultivars, is helpful but not always necessary. Latin names can be tricky—just give it your best shot! If you don't have the full name or all the details, "No-ID" is perfectly fine.

The History: Your name, plus where and when you got the orchid. Rescues are always welcome!

The Secret Sauce: What special care or "tricks" did you use to get it to bloom?

Our club is full of experienced growers and new hobbyists learning their own tricks. If you see a plant you love or need advice on a similar orchid, access the STOS Brain Trust!

Members love sharing "inside information" to help everyone get those blooms. Don't worry if your plant isn't "perfect." Whether it's a first-time bloom or a grocery store rescue, we love orchids and never tire of seeing blooming orchids. We want to celebrate your accomplishments with you!



Carol Bayles and Linda Mittel

Treasurer's Report

Thank you to everyone who paid their dues at the holiday party. For those who have not yet but want to renew their membership for calendar year 2026--you can pay online, mail in check (PO Box 607 Endicott, NY 13761), or at our next meeting (we accept cash, check, or card).

Questions? Contact stosorchids.treasurer@gmail.com

A Note from the Board: Streamlining Our Monthly Meetings

Starting with our next meeting, the full Treasurer's Report will be published here in the newsletter rather than read in detail during the meeting. This allows us to be transparent while keeping our business portion brief so we can focus on our guest speakers and orchid displays.

In accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, the report will be "received" and filed for our annual audit rather than voted upon. If you have any questions regarding the figures, we encourage you to reach out to the Treasurer before the meeting.

Income Breakdown

- Membership Dues: \$375.00
- Holiday Plant Sale: \$154.00

Expense Breakdown

- Holiday Plants: -\$1,293.00
- Meeting Venue: -\$60.00
- Food, refreshments, tableware -\$100
- Operating and General Meeting- \$943.76.

This is larger than usual due to website domain and renewal, which is every 2 years.

News

- We have transferred our banking from Empower Federal Credit Union to Visions Federal Credit Union. As a result, a bank balance will be provided at the next meeting.
- The 2026 Budget will be presented at the Executive Board meeting

Respectively submitted by Mari Stover-Ling,
Treasurer



A new delicate bloom amidst the Swiss chard and bonsai reminds us to look for hope in the mix of the everyday and the old. Happy New Year everyone.
- Linda Sukarat

Holiday Party – A Fun Time



STOS members at the 2026 Holiday Party -- photo Christine Chin

We had a sizable showing of club members attend our party, around 45 people. STOS supplied the main course which included turkey (Ruth Allen) and ham (Laurel Shaefer). Members supplied a wide variety of side dishes and desserts and we all had a good meal. Alex, Jean's daughter and our youngest member,* gave out tickets for the free holiday orchids. The orchids were from Bergen Water Gardens and the tickets determined the order in which members could choose an orchid.

We also sat for a group picture with our professional photographer, Christine Chin. Thank you, Christine for your excellent photo.

We had a great show table, lots of beautiful blooming orchids. The plant give-away was pretty exciting and leftover plants were auctioned off with the help of Luis Matienzo.

Many thanks to Ruth Allen for organizing the setup and clean up of the food, beverages, decorations, and other related items. It is a big job but happily she had help from many members including Joseph Sniezck, Mari Stover-Ling, LuAnn Meyers, Ondra Murray, Gail Gunsalus, Bernice Magee, Luke Engel and likely a few more folks. Thank you all for making our party great!

* Not counting Loi Tran's 2 small boys, who aren't too active in the club, yet!

Holiday Party – A Fun Time



Ruth Allen, Linda Mittel and LuAnn Meyers in the kitchen



John Zigmunt, Renee DePrato, Luis Matienzo and Christine Chin checking out the holiday plants

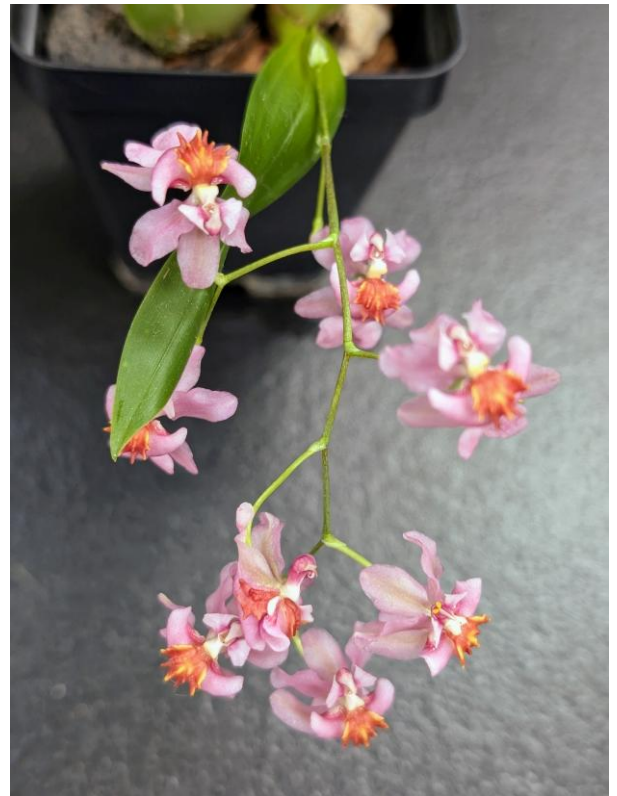


The back of Joe Sniezck in bright blue



Social Time

Show and Tell at the Party



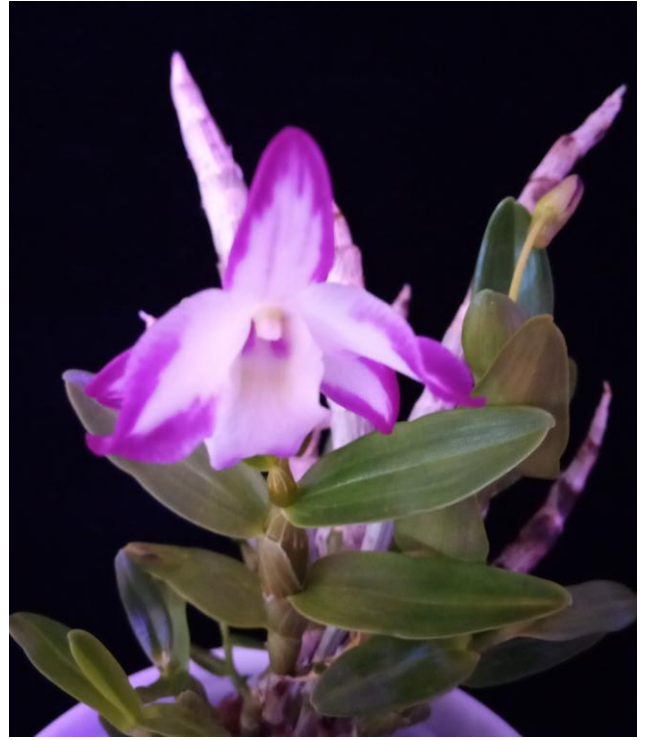
Show and Tell at the Party



Show Table – Angela Caoile



Laelia Shelly Huynh – still blooming



Den. Hanama Lake 'Prism'



Paph. Stone Lovely 'Clean Green' x Paph.
Yosemite Green 'Jumbo' Last year's (2024)
Xmas plant.



Phal. Yu Pin 'New Brother and Sister'

Show Table – Angel Caoile



Schombolaeliocattleya is a historic intergeneric hybrid of orchids since all species of Schomburgkia have been transferred to either Laelia or Myrmecophila. This plant seems to also be called simply Cattleya Bella del Caribe.

Schombolaeliocattleya (Slc.) Bella del Caribe



2 No id Phals

Show Table



Paphiopedilum venustum – Gail Gunsalus



Miltoniopsis Alexandra Dumas – Gail Gunsalus

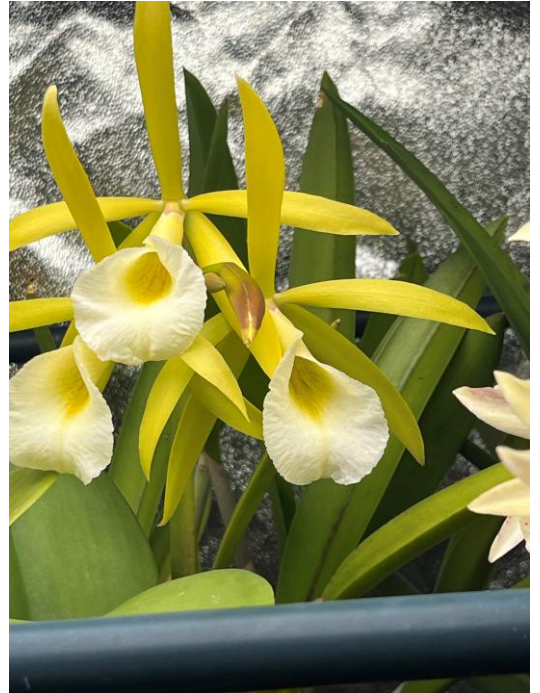


Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Siam Treasure #2
Originally from Geoff Gould's collection
- Jane Trey

Show Table – Linda Mittel



Brassolaelia (Bl.) Petit Stars



Procatavola (Pcv.) Key Lime Stars
(= Brassavola x Cattleya x Prosthechea)



Phal. NOID



Masdevallia lintriculata

Show Table – Sharon Voorhees



Den. Mini Snowflake 04/2021



Phalaenopsis 02/2021 Gift from Lowe's of Canada



Howeara (Hwra.) Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS
12/2022



Tolumia Red Berry

Born Again Orchid By Ben Cabot II

I was sad to kill an orchid.
Perhaps it died for lack of love.
But when it lived we were both happy.
I smiled at the color and fragrance.

Being attentive to so many things
Her beauty I took for granted.

The pronoun is her because of “her” grace.
Fine delicate blooms, fragile and seductive.

Chat GPT tells me orchids live 15 to 20 years
With proper care. Mine die like goldfish.

By lack of knowledge or commitment
Perhaps deficient attentive care.

I sent a photo to someone who knows things
They said my orchid is only resting.

When she is done with her nap
And she is born again

I will cherish her beauty
And become a disciplined caregiver.

Until she naps again.



16x20 acrylic slipper orchid painting – Ben Cabot