



Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

Next Meeting April 19, 2pm-4pm

Speaker:

Jeff Hackett - Potting Media & Pots in our Culture

I joined the Southern Tier Orchid Society in February 2024, shortly after relocating to the Southern Tier region of New York from Florida, where I was born and raised. My interest in plants began several years ago with citrus and other fruiting trees, and over time expanded into aroids and other foliage houseplants. I began growing orchids in 2020, and they have since become the primary focus of my collection.



Professionally, I hold a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with emphasis in geotechnical, water resources, and environmental engineering. Currently, I work in environmental engineering, specializing in the design and modification of wastewater treatment facilities. This technical background has strongly influenced my approach on orchid cultivation within my own collection and I hope to be able to share this knowledge with everyone in the club.

Like many engineers, I tend to approach challenges with a logical and pragmatic mindset, and that perspective carries over into my growing practices. I'm particularly interested in the relationship between water, air, media, and container systems as understanding the water nexus within our culture greatly impacts our ability to grow a wide diversity of plants.

I've developed a presentation focused on helping growers better understand how media selection, pot type, and media blends influence drying behavior and the overall root environment. My goal is to provide a framework that allows growers to make informed decisions and adapt their culture techniques more effectively, regardless of their prior experience with specific media.

Jeff will also give this presentation at the show.



SOUTHERN
TIER
ORCHID
SOCIETY

Spring Orchid Show

Saturday, May 2
Sunday, May 3

Admission \$5
Free for children 12 and under

Raffles
Repotting Demo
Door Prizes
Orchid Vendors

Johnson City Senior Center
30 Brocton street,
Johnson City, NY

Emile

**Don't
forget!**

**Setup on
May 1!**

**Bring your
blooming
orchids!**

Spring Auction a Success

Our March auction featured wonderful plants from Bergen Water Gardens and White Plains Orchids as well as a few donated ones. The bidding was very competitive and many of the plants went for high prices. It was an exciting auction for sure.



Show table at March meeting.
These plants were not for sale!

Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

LuAnn Myers

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 Shafer

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 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 TBD

Neighboring Societies and 2026 Shows

CPOS- Central PA Orchid Society (State College, PA)
Show **Mar. 21-22**

<https://www.aos.org/community-events/calendar/543>

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** www.southerntierorchids.org/

CNYOS – Central NY Orchid Society (Syracuse)

Treasurer's Report

Auction Results

Proceeds from auction: 1,171

Cost of plants: -756.74

Net proceeds: 414.26

Thank you to those who donated plants. Thank you to the auction committee who spent time going to Bergen, taking care of the plants, putting together the auction program, and auctioneering!

Revenues

All Vendors have paid their entry fees for the show.

Due to the busy tax season, a complete Treasurer's report is not available at this time.

Regards

Mari Stover-Ling, STOS Treasurer



Show Speakers

Show Speakers (days and times TBD):

- Jeff Hackett on Potting Media & Pots in our Culture
- Carol Bayles on Orchids101
- Repotting & Mounting Demonstration
- Maurice Garvey on Growing In Orchidariums.

Maurice Garvey Biography:

I have been growing orchids since 1979 and have lectured to orchid societies in the United States and in Canada. I joined the Manhattan Orchid Society in 1980 and I am also a member in the North Jersey Orchid Society and the Ramapo Orchid Society (Engelwood, NJ). I have been official photographer for the American Orchid Society's Northeast Judging Center since 2009 and also do talks on photography.

I started growing Phalaenopsis on windowsills 46 years ago. Several years later I started using baker's racks with fluorescent lighting for growing Paphiopedilums. I have been growing in Orchidariums for over 27 years and these days I grow almost exclusively in my three Orchidariums. My collection contains warm to hot growing Dendrobiums, Bulbophyllums, Phalaenopsis and miniatures from other genera.

In my lecture 'Growing in an Orchidarium' I explain many aspects of growing in an enclosed confined area. Topics include sanitation, watering, feeding and Orchidarium environments. This talk also includes mistakes to avoid and illustrates the mechanics of growing in an Orchidarium using photos of my setups.

Show Update

April Show Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers for various roles, including:

Show Setup (Friday, May 1): Help transform the space with table setup, skirting and assisting vendors with their displays. Need everyone here.

Judging Setup: Help set up area for judges.

Display Setup: We will have 2 or 3 STOS displays with plants and staging props that will need to be arranged for effect. Here is a chance to show your creativity.

Clerking (Early Saturday Morning): Assist the judges during the ribbon competition—it's like a masterclass in orchid quality. We need 10-12 clerks. Guidance for clerking and ribbon placement will be provided.

Hospitality & Greeting: Welcome the public and share our passion for orchids. May include memberships and raffle tickets.

Kids and Educational Table: Help children with activities, share orchid information with visitors. A fun job.

Arrange food service areas: Set up meals and snacks and keep area clean. Clean up at end. This position is more interesting than it may seem. Everyone comes to the food area and it is a chance to talk to judges, vendors, etc. out of the commotion of the show. **Takedown** (Sunday Afternoon): Help us wrap up a successful weekend. Everyone needed here.

And More!

Sign Up Today!

Please sign up at our April meeting or even better visit our [Volunteer Sign-Up Page](#) on the STOS website to claim your preferred shift. Whether you can give two hours or the whole weekend, every bit of help makes a difference.

Let's make our 40th year the best show yet!

Jeff

Show Co-Chair, Southern Tier Orchid Society

A note on displays

Judges like when there is a theme to a display, so we need some non-orchid items; one year we used a number of small birds. We could do birds again or something else. We will have at least 2 tables and they should be different. If you have an idea, announce it at the next meeting. We also can use attractive or neutral plant supports of various heights, some strong enough to hang a heavy plant from. Interesting driftwood is often used within a display.

Just remember to put your name on anything you bring and if we don't use something, you should take it back home.

Show Update

New this Year – STOS Swag!



Magnets



Tote Bag



Wine Glass

T-Shirt



Merchandise will be available for sale at the April meeting, at the show and perhaps at the May meeting. You can also order online at the link below. Payment can be made through the web app in PayPal. Items ordered online will be available at the April meeting or at the show. Please show your support of our club.

Reserve your merchandise here:

<https://forms.gle/bBohkfS5obMjaRBa8>

Kelly's Korner Order Code:

Kelly's Korner sells media, fertilizer, pots and other items, but not plants. PK Dennis has offered STOS members a presales discount code for 10% off all merchandise on their website <https://www.kkorchid.com/>

Code is valid through **4/27** and orders will be available for pickup during the show.

Please reach out to me directly for questions or concerns - I will pass correspondence onto PK Dennis. – Jeff Hackett

Don't Just Grow It, Show It!

Part 3

Pretty soon, you will be able to guess which orchids might be in bloom for our show in early May. Bring your plants **to the registrar** at the show setup on May 1 from **2-4 PM**, earlier is better. If you cannot come, someone can probably bring them for you.

We also need some green plants to fill in gaps and otherwise enhance our displays. Bring ferns or other leafy plants or just interesting plants like succulents or bromeliads, as long as they do not have flowers.

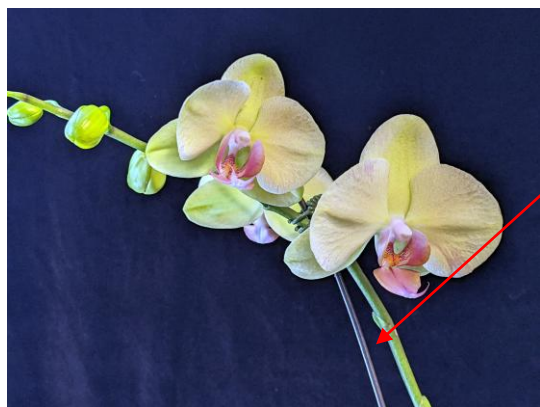
Your entire orchid plant needs to look its best, including the foliage. Hopefully, you were able to stake the spikes, and they are in place, supporting the blossoms if needed.

Orchid Spa Treatment

- Clean the leaves with a 50/50 solution of milk and water or lemon juice and water.
- Remove any brown or yellow leaves. If you cut off a brown tip, make the cut pointy or match the other leaves.
- If a leaf is blocking a flower, try to tie it out of the way.
- Add fresh media or Sphagnum moss to the pot surface both for looks and to keep the local humidity higher (moss is best for this).
- Check for any pests. Dab them off with a cotton swab dipped in isopropanol.

Staking and Presentation (see the previous articles in the newsletters)

- Use thin, dark colored stakes, and the stake should not extend above the flower



Plant stakes



Plant Container and Identification

- Hide the ID tag by removing it or pushing it below the bark or media surface. Do not lose it.
- Label the pot with your name. Masking tape works well. During the show break down, things get hectic, ribbons fall off and plants can become orphans.
- We cover most pots with black cloth. If you have an attractive but neutral-colored pot it might not get covered.
- Plants without names (NOIDs) are acceptable and can be registered to win ribbons.
- We like blooming orchids for our displays, but if the blossoms are wilting, they are best left at home.

Don't Just Grow It, Show It!

Part 3

Plant Transportation

Transporting blooming orchids can be tricky, and once you drop them off, they are at the mercy of other club members.

- Make sure the plant is secure in its pot.
- Use cardboard boxes, 5-gallon buckets, or shopping bags with rigid sides and convenient handles. Be sure to label your containers with your name if you want to leave them during the show.
- You can transport several orchids in one container using bubble wrap, or crumpled paper between the pots to keep them in place. Tape up box flaps for extra height.
- Don't wait until the last minute to pack your plants. You may have to rearrange them, and it takes time. You don't want to knock off any blossoms.
- Cover the blossoms with a large plastic garbage bag if we have cold/windy weather

Registration

- All orchids must be registered to be judged; this applies to ribbon or AOS judging.
- Pre-registration is required. Last-minute registrations are a nightmare.
- Register your plant if you THINK it will be ready, deleting the registration later is easy.
- Bring them to the registrar first, to be checked in before displaying them.

Here is simple registration form if you only have a few orchids.

<https://forms.gle/NDp5vRqRNz1M3nyS6>

We have an excel spreadsheet if you have many orchids and can use excel. Both of these are or will be on our web site soon. <https://www.southerntierorchids.org/>

Genera are grouped into 'Alliances' which are non-botanical groupings that are **now defined** on the AOS site. <https://www.aos.org/explore-orchids>. Pictures and names are on the next page. Generic abbreviations on your tag can be looked up with the links below.

The Registration Classification List will also be on the web site. You should read through it and you may be able to figure out where your orchid fits. Many are very straightforward. I highly recommend trying, you will learn a lot. However, if you need help, the STOS registrar, Carol Bayles, is happy to help, and will be happier if you ask earlier, not the day before show setup. Use this email cjb4@cornell.edu to send the **entire** name from the tag (you can send a clear photo of the tag).

Natural and Hybrid Generic Names and Standard Abbreviations (2017):

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plant-registration-forms/orchid-name-abbreviations-list.pdf>

[Intergeneric Abbreviations Alphabetized by Abbreviation](#)

[Intergeneric Abbreviations Alphabetized by Name](#)

Don't Just Grow It, Show It!

Part 3

Alliances from AOS.org



Angraecum Alliance



Bulbophyllum Alliance



Catasetum Alliance



Cattleya Alliance



Coelogyne Alliance



Cymbidium Alliance



Dendrobium Alliance



Maxillaria Alliance



Oncidium Alliance



Phalaenopsis Alliance



Pleurothallis Alliance



Slipper Alliance



Stanhopea Alliance



Vanda Alliance



Zygopetalum Alliance



Miscellaneous

Meeting Minutes

SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY (STOS) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: General Membership Meeting

Date: March 15, 2026

Location: Johnson City Senior Center

Presiding Officer: Linda Mittel, President

Recording Officer: Melissa Bennett, Secretary

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order @ 2:00PM. About 45 members attended the meeting. The meeting opened with an invitation for new members to introduce themselves, though none came forward. Jeff and Jean were thanked for sourcing the plants available at the meeting. Members were encouraged to view the plants on the show table, though a formal "tell" was skipped due to time constraints.

Secretary's Report

Notes from the last general meeting were posted to the March newsletter and were distributed to the membership. A motion to pass the notes as written was made, seconded, and passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mari Stover-Ling submitted the report. It was noted the report is not audited, so a formal vote was not required. Members were directed to Mari for specific financial questions.

Membership Committee Update

After purging non-paying members, the club has 67 contacts (down from 105), with approximately 60 active paid members. Membership fees generate roughly 1,500–1,800 annually; the majority of club income comes from auctions and the annual show.

Library

Laurel reported that seven books are missing from the 2024 repository. Members were asked to return any borrowed books to the library.

Show Update (May 2nd–3rd)

Polly and Bernice are preparing posters on lady slippers and a section on New York native orchids and conservation. Julia McCabe is developing a section on pollinators. Other activities include a scavenger hunt, sticker books, and coloring pages for children.

Setup is scheduled for May 1st. A volunteer sign-up list will be posted on the website within the week.

The club will sell branded items (wine glasses, magnets, bags, t-shirts) at the show. A pre-sale will open online soon, though tax issues prevented sales at today's meeting.

Jane is seeking volunteers to place road signs starting the Monday before the show. Adjustments to the dates on existing signs may be made before the next meeting.

Meeting Minutes, cont.

Old Business

Luis and Paula were handed the mementos (paperweights) to honor their 40 years of membership.

The club has paid for Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance, which includes Employment Practices Liability Insurance (EPLI). This protects the board and volunteers against claims of harassment or financial mismanagement.

New Business

The board is considering a buddy system to pair existing members with new members to improve retention and help newcomers integrate into the club.

Rochester Show (April 17th–19th): The Greater Rochester Orchid Society (GROS) show setup is Thursday, April 16th. Volunteers plan to leave the area around 9:00 AM to arrive by noon. Rules regarding AOS judging for plants displayed at both shows were clarified: ribbons can be won at both, but AOS judging has specific restrictions.

A member noted the club show was missing from the March issue of Orchids magazine, likely due to a missed registration deadline.

Josh DeMarree offered to provide vanilla orchids for the kids' / education table.

The next meeting is confirmed for April 19th (moved from April 12th due to a scheduling conflict at the venue).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 for a 10-minute break before the auction. Attendees were reminded to get bidding paddles.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Bennett, Secretary

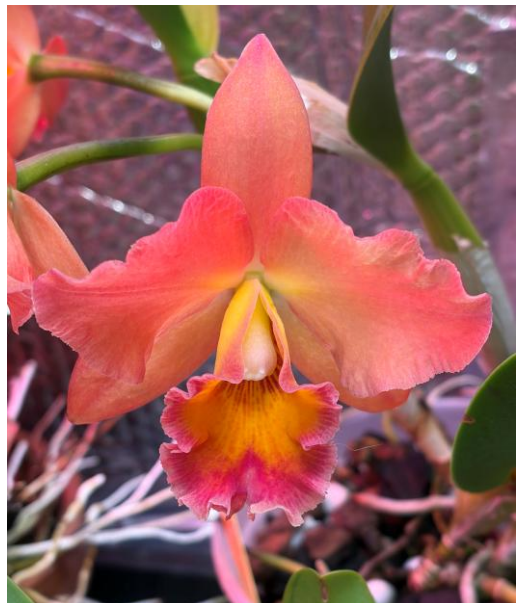
Linda Mittel, President.

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

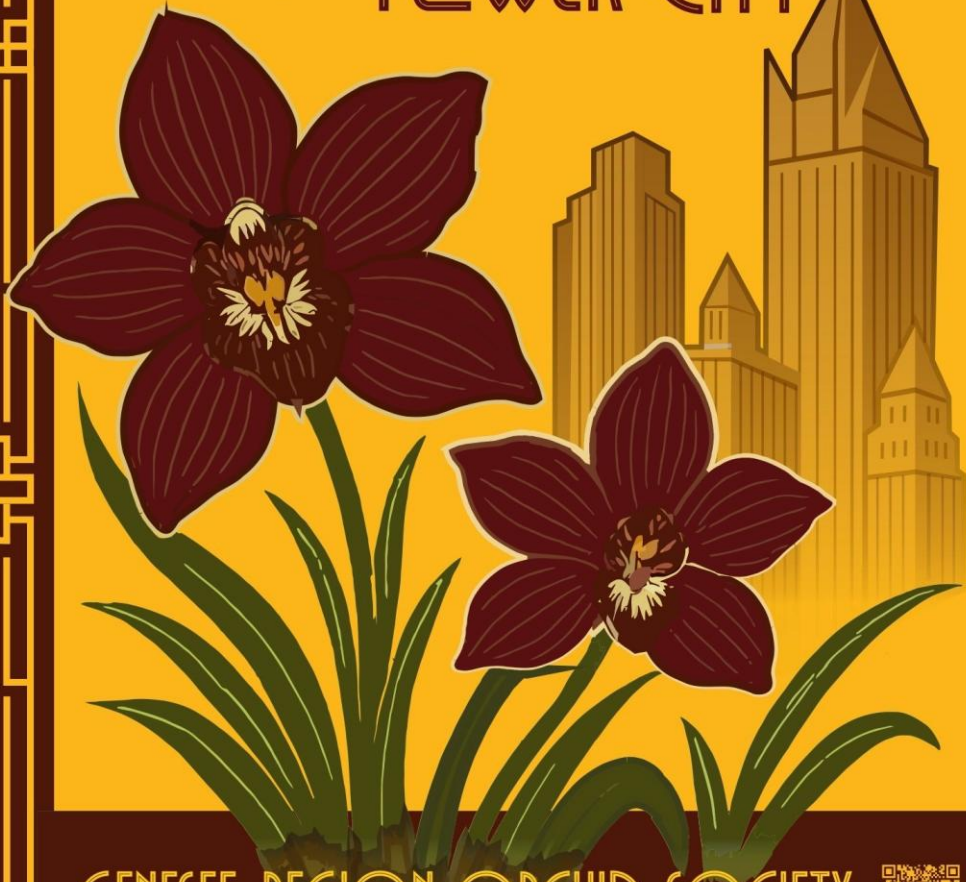
Pot. Mem. Jim Nickou 'James' HCC/AOS x

Blc. William Farrell 'Native Son'

--Linda Mittel



50 YEARS OF ORCHIDS IN THE FLOWER CITY



GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY



2026

APRIL 17-19 SHOW & SALE

RMSC EISENHART AUDITORIUM
657 EAST AVE
ROCHESTER, NY 14607

FRIDAY 1-5 PM
SATURDAY 10-5 PM
SUNDAY 10-4 PM

ADULTS \$10
STUDENTS WITH ID \$5
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
REPOTTING \$5 AND UP
ORCHID SEMINARS

From our Members

A WARM THANK YOU

Paula and I are very appreciative to our president and the board of STOS for recognizing our involvement with the Southern Tier Orchid Society. Through these years we have managed to keep our vibrant organization growing and we have made many friends who have been enthusiastic and have helped our group to become what it is today.

Our only wish is that our society continues to exist for many more years and we all learn more about orchids, share our knowledge and welcome new members. We have included below a photograph of the commemorative items we received at the last meeting and we want to show and share them with members that did not have the opportunity to see them.

Again, thank you very much for your gifts and recognition.

Luis and Paula Matienzo



Show Table



Clowesetum (Clo.) White Magic (Cl. warcewiczii 'SVO' x Ctsm. Orchidglade 'Davie Ranches') Note the pseudobulbs in the pot -- Laurel Shaefer



Dendrobium chrysotoxum from our auction -- Bernice Magee



Phal. Taisuco Kochdian -- Bernice Magee



Phal. Sogo Watch - Bernice Magee

Show Table at March Meeting



Oncidiopsis (Celtic Sun x Burgundian)
'Sundowners' – Linda Mittel



Paph. delenatii 'Perfect Blush'—Linda Mittel



Vanda Fuch's Delight x Dr. Anek – Linda Mittel



Show Table



Cattlianthe (Ctt.) 'Hilo Sunrise'
– Carol Bayles



Phragmepedium Fritz Schomburg (*besseae* x *kovachii*). See below. I bought it at Deep Cut in 2023. Finally bloomed. It will have at least 3 sequential flowers, which are 4 inches across
-- Carol Bayles



Phrag. besseae – Luis Matienzo. This species has an interesting discovery story. It provides the bright orange in the Phrag. hybrid world. The flowers are 2-3 inches across.



Phrag. kovachii. Photo by Glen Decker from AOS.org. This orchid species was discovered in 2001, an even more interesting story. Flowers can be more than 6 inches across.

Show Table – Jean Mint



Seidenfadenia mitrata



Phalaenopsis stuartiana nobilis 'Wilson'



Rodriguezia decora x *R. lanceolata*



Bulbophyllum gracillimum

Show Table – Angel Caoile



Phal. Miki Cotton Candy



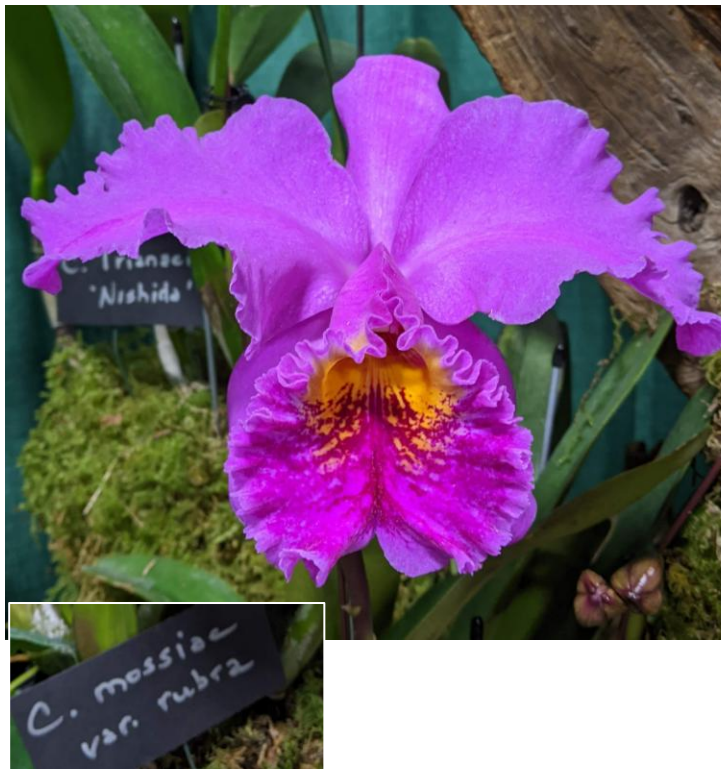
3 Noid Phals



SEPOS Show



SEPOS Show



SEPOS Show



From the Royal Courts of England to the New York Southern Tier: A 200-Year Journey

When you join us for our annual show this **May 1, 2, and 3**, you aren't just looking at flowers, you are stepping into a story that spans centuries. Long before orchids were available in every supermarket, they were the world's most mysterious and coveted plants.

In 19th-century England, orchids were known as "**Green Gold.**" Explorers risked their lives in tropical jungles to bring back species that sold for thousands of dollars to royalty and the ultra-wealthy. This obsession, famously known as "**Orchidelirium,**" eventually crossed the Atlantic, leading to the founding of the American Orchid Society (AOS) in 1921.

We have a special reason for pride right here in New York. For decades, orchids remained a "rich man's whim" because they were nearly impossible to grow from seed. That changed in 1922, when **Dr. Lewis Knudson at Cornell University** published his landmark research. By proving that seeds could be grown in sterile glass flasks on a nutrient-rich agar "jello," Dr. Knudson revolutionized the world. His "Cornell Method" is the reason orchids are now a **multi-billion dollar international industry** and the most popular flowering houseplant on the planet.¹

The **Southern Tier Orchid Society** (STOS) began its own chapter in 1963, led by pioneers like Mrs. William Burke, our society's first president Mrs. Burke was particularly famous for her skill in growing Cattleyas—the magnificent, fragrant "corsage orchids" that were the height of mid-century elegance.²

Before we had formal exhibition halls, these early members brought orchids to the people. It is a fond part of our local heritage that these first "shows" were often informal displays tucked into bank lobbies or downtown department stores. The society's modern era truly blossomed in 1986 with our first formalized, AOS-recognized show in Endicott, NY, held at Boscov's Auditorium.

Since then, we have been a nearly continuous presence in the region, growing from those small storefront tables into a premier event that welcomed hundreds of people last year. Aside from a brief two-year pause for COVID-19, our commitment to sharing these plants at annual shows has never wavered.

Orchid History

Our mission today remains the same as it was in 1963: to understand, to conserve, and to educate. We invite you to be a part of this living history. Whether you are a master grower or just starting your first windowsill collection, come celebrate the diversity and splendor of the orchid with us this May.

See you at the show!

Linda Mittel, President

Pot. Mem. Jim Nickou"James" HCC/AOS x Blc.
William Farrell 'Native Son'



Footnotes

[1] Economic & Scientific Data:

- **The Global Market:** According to the **USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Floriculture Crops Reports** and the *2024–2026 Global Orchid Market Outlook*, orchids (specifically the *Phalaenopsis*) rank as the **#1 most valuable potted flowering plant** in the U.S. The total international market is valued at over **\$1.3 billion (wholesale)** and several billion dollars at the retail level.
- **The Cornell Connection:** Dr. Lewis Knudson, “*Non-Symbiotic Germination of Orchid Seeds,*” **Botanical Gazette**, Vol. 73, No. 1, **January 1922**. This research, conducted at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, is the foundation of the modern orchid industry.

[2] Society Heritage:

- **AOS Archives:** American Orchid Society records confirm the **Southern Tier Orchid Society** was founded in **1963** and officially recognized in 1964, with **Mrs. William Burke** serving as the inaugural president.
- **Local History:** Documented through society archives and oral history regarding early informal displays in **Endicott department stores** and the **1986 AOS-sanctioned show at Boscov’s Auditorium**.