



May 2025

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

May Activity: Repotting Session

Demonstrations of repotting, dividing, and mounting plants will be done on plants provided by members. The divisions will be repotted or mounted. Pots and media will be available and some mounting materials available as needed.

Laurel Shaffer, Luis Matienzo, and Jean Mint will give demonstrations and assist members who want assistance and guidance.

Members can bring their own plants to be repotted and receive guidance as needed. Please bring any special pots and media you may prefer for your own plants.

A free raffle will be done on divisions and extra plants for everyone to enter. Some Noid mini phals (not blooming) will be available; if these NOIDS bloom for you, ID will be made (if possible) by Luis Matienzo.

Please be sure the plants you bring are healthy and free of any pests.

Bring your own hand pruners, scissors or something to cut plants and dead roots if you bring a plant to repot. Please also provide newspaper or similar to catch debris from repotting and gloves if desired. Sanitizing materials will be made available by the club.

Repotting demonstrations will begin after routine club meeting and show and tell table is completed.



Note From the President:

As summer approaches, after this May 18th monthly meeting, we will pause until September. However, we'll keep in touch through our monthly newsletter, and we encourage you to share photos of your summer-blooming orchids. We welcome your input for the newsletter, including articles you write or find interesting, which we might include. The email address where photos and information can be sent is stosorchids@newsletter.com. If you have any questions or comments, send them to stosorchids@gmail.com, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Behind the scenes, we'll be busy preparing for the 2026 show, planning our August picnic (details TBD), scheduling future meetings, and more! We're also exploring other summer activities to stay connected. We look forward to seeing you in September, if not before!

Have a wonderful summer with happy growing orchids and blooms.

Linda Mittel

Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

Ruth Allen

Treasurer

Joe Sniezek

Secretary

Chris Higgins

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

Jeff Hackett

Loi X Tran

Gail Gunsalus

Auction Committee Jane Trey, 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 TBA
- Nov 16** General Meeting
Speaker TBA
- Dec 21** Holiday Party

Update on Colin Dimon:

After experiencing a severe fall in the early part of this year, Colin has been in a rehab center in Ithaca, NY. He welcomes cards and visits for any of those interested. The address is Oak Hill Manor, 602 Hudson Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, and the phone number for the facility is 607.272.8282. Check to be sure he is still there if you are going to visit.

STOS Meeting Minutes

March 16th Meeting Notes

Meeting location: Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton Street, Johnson City, NY 13790

Time: 2:05 PM – 4:03 PM

Attendees: There were approximately 32 attendees, including STOS members and guests.

Call to Order: President Linda called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 PM.

Speaker:

President Linda introduced this month's guest speaker, Dr. Clark Thomas Riley, of Baltimore, Maryland, whose topic, "Building the 21st Century Hobby Greenhouse.," included all the stages involved in the construction—from getting a building permit to finally covering the dirt floor with fabric. Dr. Riley's slide presentation offered an in-depth look at ordering the greenhouse kit from a trusted vendor; digging trenches for the footers; bringing in concrete; installing fans, electric and water lines as well as air conditioning. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Riley took questions from the audience. He also mentioned that copies of his books were available for sale.

Auction:

After a short break, about fifty orchids, two books, and two bags of charcoal were auctioned, Dr. Riley assisting and offering useful information about the orchids.

Old Business:

-Minutes of the February 16, 2025, STOS meeting, as published in the March 2025 STOS Newsletter, were approved without objection.

-Treasurer Joe Sniezek gave a brief report regarding STOS funds in three different bank accounts.

-Jeffrey Hackett provided an update on the upcoming STOS Orchid Show, April 12 – 13 to be held at the Johnson City, NY, Senior Center.

New Business:

-Friday, April 11, is the setup day for the STOS Spring Orchid Show, April 12-13.

-Volunteers are needed for the 2025 STOS Spring Orchid Show. Please contact Jeffrey Hackett.

-Five vendors have committed to the STOS Orchid Show, April 12 – 13.

-Paula Matienzo mentioned that five or six judges have committed to the STOS Show.

-Judging will begin at 7 AM on Saturday, April 12.

-Judges will be invited to breakfast.

-Polly Dillion volunteered to set up an Education table which will include stickers and activities such as origami and making bookmarks.

Additional Notes:

President Linda reminded members that STOS's sister orchid society, the Genesee Region Orchid Society, is having its annual orchid show on March 28 - 30. Linda stated that STOS will be sending some orchids up to Rochester, NY, for the STOS exhibit table at the GROS show. Set-up day is Thursday, March 27; take-down is on Sunday, March 30.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 2nd Meeting Notes

Meeting location: Zoom

Attendees: Executive Board Members: Ruth Allen, Polly Dillon, Jeff Hackett, Chris Higgins, Linda Mittel, and Jean Mint in addition to Carol Bayles, Sam Hance, Renee Sparrow, and one guest

New Business:

Sam Hance and Jeff Hackett gave an update about the approaching April Orchid Show o April 12th and 13:

- Invite email contains an attached document indicating the status of show planning as of the final week in March 2025.
- Only plant vendors; no supply vendors
- Regarding Tioga Gardens doing an entrance display, no response as of yet from TG
- Money from vendors due at set-up date, April 11, 2025
- List of judges is in the attached document.
- There'll be an art display; pieces can be judged if registered ahead of time (like a plant).
- Registrations ideally up to the day before; on the first day of the show if necessary.
- Jeff will do the registrations; Renee will help prep tags for STOS (labels).
- Jeff asks that plants be kept in one place and not shifted around; Carol Bayles concurred.
- A question regarding whether or not to have a catalogue was raised. The issue not resolved.
- Jeff reported that STOS will have three, six-foot tables, one overflow table, and an Education display table. The number of tables depends on plant registrations.
- Carol suggested it would be good if people could add to the Education display.
- Jeff stated that individuals could possibly have small displays on their own tables.
- Need to have enough plants for a separate table—at least five
- Sam stated that the floor plan is still in development.
- Carol and Jeff shared a floor plan indicating vendors on the outside and displays on the inside.
- The Fingerlakes Bonsai Society will have a display table with its own membership forms.
- AOS will be located in an upper corner of the room.
- The Education display table will have orchid origami, mounted mini orchids, book markers to decorate and take home, and a orchid scavenger hunt materials; the table will be small.
- Jeff may have an extra table. People encouraged to bring in extra small tables.
- On Friday, April 11, doors open at 1:30 PM; people can set up at 2:00 PM.
- For the raffle, two plants from each vendor for a total of ten
- One raffled during the potting demonstration (?)
- There will be a door prize; Polly Dillon offered to donate a phalaenopsis; offer accepted.
- Sam is working on a questionnaire for feedback from people attending the show.
- Ruth stated that Jane (not present) has sticker books that need to be given away. Some could be used as prizes for the scavenger hunt; others given away.
- Linda has paperwork associated with terrariums; can make it educational.
- Jean can bring a terrarium or a few; also has an eight-foot table she will bring. Jeff noted that tables can be registered on the day of the show.
- Sam stated that Christine will be the show's official photographer.
- Sam and Jean reported on the advertising blitz taking place: newspapers and social media, including Press and Sun Bulletin digital.
- On social media Jean uses "love" or "love and share" to ramp up the algorithm.
- Linda said that the TV program "Around the Tiers" will be there at 3 PM on Saturday, the 12th, and transmit live back to the station.

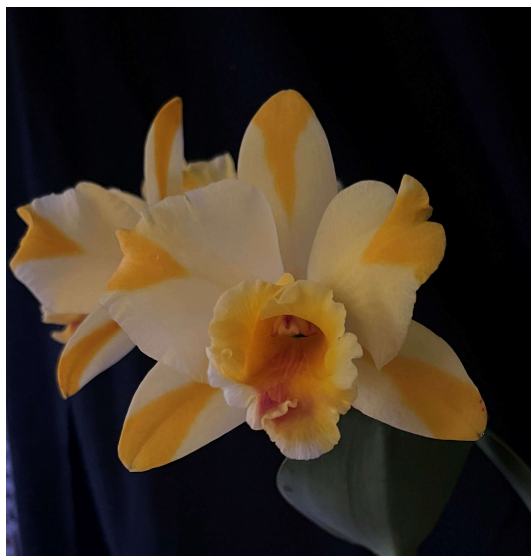
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April 2nd Meeting Notes cont.,

New Business:

- On Saturday or Sunday someone from the radio station may be at the show.
- Sam suggested that we need some lights, material for tables and wrapping plants, moss; driftwood; risers.
- Linda said someone should talk to Laurel about an eight-foot shelf; STOS could buy a couple of eight-foot shelves.
- Sam stated there are many openings for volunteers; Carol suggested sending out emails and asking for volunteers
- Linda stated that Binghamton University Garden Club is supposed to come to the show; the head stated they may volunteer.
- Polly said Josh found a sprig of vanilla and may bring it in. Jean said she has a vanilla plant she can bring.
- Carol's orchid talk will be at 2-3 PM on Saturday, April 12th.
- Carol suggested that board members may want to watch the set up at 1:30 PM on Friday.
- Jeff stated that there will be eight judges; judging to be held in library or art room.
- Ruth will be providing breakfast for the judges on Saturday morning: coffee, bagels, pastries, and a fruit bowl.
- Judging begins at 7:30 AM on Saturday morning.
- Ruth will also pick up lunch items for both days: pizza, small tossed salads, a sub tray; Ruth asked for volunteers to provide desserts.
- Linda asked if anyone has access to a truck to get things over to the center; Jean said she has a truck.
- Linda stated that as Joe Snizek will not be able to attend Saturday and Sunday, someone is needed to help with the money. It was suggested that Angel may be able to do this.
- Concerning the incoming money, Carol said there is a cashbox with a lock; Jeff asked about bank bags; Linda stated that the credit card machine is simple to use.
- Linda said she will bring the club's laptop; Sam said we need both the laptop and paper for membership. Handwriting often difficult to read.
- Jeff said that Sam bought three table runners with the STOS logo; Jeff bought some black tablecloths.
- Linda mentioned that it would be helpful to have attendees complete a survey as to how people found out about the show.
- Linda also stated that we will have a meeting on April 27th to discuss what went well and what did not.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.



Rth. Nell Hammer 'STK'
Photos Courtesy of Linda Mittel



STOS Meeting Minutes

April 27th Meeting Notes

Meeting location: Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton Street, Johnson City, NY 13790

Time: 2:20 PM – 4:40 PM

Attendees: About 38 members; about seven on Zoom

Call to Order: 2:40 PM.

Announcement: President Linda gave a shout-out to all the volunteers who helped make the 2025 STOS Orchid Show such a huge success. A great Thank You to all!

Meeting Notes: the Secretary's previous notes as well as the Notes for today's meeting will go into the next Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Snizek stated that the show was a great success, with some 600-650 attendees. There will be a Final Report in May. The new entry fee caused no complaints.

Membership Report: 42 new members added as a result of the show. Melissa and Anitra welcomed the new members. President Linda stated that on May 1, non-dues paying members will be removed from the membership list.

Education Table: Polly reported that this part of the show was also a great success. Bernice and Brian helped with scavenger hunt and activity table. Next year, native orchid plants may be added. Community outreach is a possibility as well.

Library: Linda will talk to Carol about the sale of books. Luis will send a list of prices.

Mini-Zoom sessions: Melissa proposed a number of informal Zoom meetings during which members can ask one another questions on various featured topics such as Summering Orchids Outside, Orchid Photography Tips and Tricks, and Newbies Corner. Need at least four people per session. Sessions to be announced four weeks in advance. The next Newsletter will have times and dates.

Invitation: Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise invited STOS Club members to a talk in Syracuse on May 4.

Summer Newsletter: Jeff will continue the Newsletter over the summer. If members have photos of summer blooms, please send to Jeff's email (check Newsletter for address). Jeff, the Editor-in-Chief, also invites articles.

Summer Picnic: to be held in August. More information to come in next Newsletter.

Notice: Bergen Water Gardens in New Jersey to hold a Lotus Festival July 25-27. Lotus and orchids on display.



B. Nadosa 'Minnie Mouse'
Photo Courtesy of Linda Mittel

April 27th Meeting Notes cont.,

Show Co-Chairs' Reports: Jeff thanked everyone who helped. There was a record turnout! Thanks to Mari and Paula who entered data from the surveys.

Sam also thanked the volunteers. The surveys are proving to be invaluable. The vendors were happy with the show, and all hope to come back next year. So does the Ithaca bonsai group. The art display was new, and Sam would like to see another next year. She would like kids to participate, too.

Suggestions for improvements welcome. Contact Co-Chairs.

Comments from the floor:

- . Have membership sign-up close to admissions and raffle tickets.
- . Luis: Judges need a map of displays
- . Jeff would like to have a Registrar and Head Clerk to deal with forms, etc.
- . Paula suggested having a clerk for each of our tables—record names of plants and exhibitors.
- . Joe suggested having different color tickets for each money stream.
- . Education table (?) needs a money bag.
- . Luis suggested members could have small display tables; these can be Judged or not.
- . Need more lights for the displays.
- . May need to rent more backdrops.
- . Could possible use a projection screen for meetings.
- . Need a venue and dates set up for next year; have to avoid conflicts.
- . BU Garden Club helped enormously setting up the show and breaking down.
- . Sam and Jeff willing to be Co-Chairs next year
- . Josh might arrange for a tour of BU greenhouses.
- . Colin Dimon update: he is doing better after his fall.

Raffle: About 20 flowers and orchid items, including pots and medium, found new homes.

Show Table: Approximately 14 beautiful plants displayed.

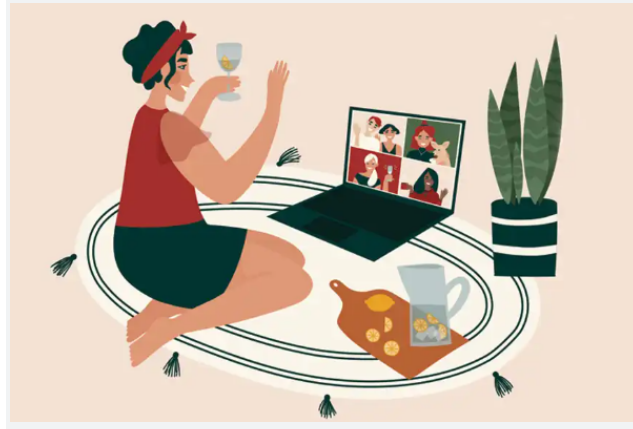
Reminder: The May 18 meeting will include a free potting session.

Meeting adjourned about 4:40 PM.



STOS Members! It's a menu of Mini-Meetings tailored to your interests!

Bring your choice of beverage and join us for a virtual get-together with other club members. This is a relaxed setting where you can ask questions, share experiences, and enjoy each other's company—no pressure, just friendly conversation.



*If you wish to participate in a particular event, email me
If 4 or more people sign up for a particular time, then it's a go! Once there are at least 4 signups and the Mini-Meeting is confirmed, the host will email you a confirmation. The Zoom link will be emailed out the week before the confirmed Mini-Meeting. Now all you need to do is show up! That's it!*

*I am already putting together a few more Mini-Meetings for the rest of June and July.
Can you think of any other good topics? What would you be interested in? What times work best for you? Email me and let me know so I can schedule accordingly!*

Melissa
root.to.shoot.mb@gmail.com

Check out our first offerings below!

NEWBIE CORNER



Whether you're a new member or new to orchids, ask questions, listen to other members' stories... We've all been there!

Newbie Corner Proposed Times

- Wednesday May 21 7PM ▪ Thursday May 22 7PM
- Tuesday May 27 6PM ▪ Thursday May 29 7PM ▪ Saturday May 31 4PM



FIGURING OUT FERTILIZER

Too much? Too little? Which one? When? How much? pH? chemistry? OMG!!!!

Figuring out Fertilizer Proposed Times

- May 28 Wednesday 3PM ▪ May 30 Friday 7PM ▪ May 31 Saturday 2PM



DIAGNOSING SICK ORCHIDS

What's wrong with my plant? Should I be freaking out?

Diagnosing Sick Orchids Proposed Times

- June 1 Sunday 3PM ▪ June 2 Monday 7PM ▪ June 4 Wednesday 6PM