



Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

Next Meeting October 18, 2pm
Speaker, Dennis Steinbeck
of Flask and Flora

One of our show vendors the past 2 years
***“Learning about your orchids with
internet resources”***

This talk will focus on understanding your plant's needs from an ancestry perspective. Dennis will demonstrate how to use easy-to-access internet resources to understand the cultural needs of species and our modern hybrids.

Dennis has been a lifelong gardener, but when a friend gave him a dying *Cattleya* it opened up a whole new world of plants. After nursing it back to health, he went full-on into the orchid hobby and opened Flask & Flora a few years later, in Columbus, Ohio. Dennis travels the world sourcing new and interesting varieties and runs his nursery with a focus on equipping newer growers with the knowledge and tools to succeed.

Flask & Flora has a website, but the best way order orchids is through their weekly Facebook sale. Simply read the comments and type "sold" under the plant you want.

Dennis will also bring many plants for sale.

Please come at 1:30 to socialize before the meeting.

We will start the meeting at 2pm sharp.

We will have a raffle and a show table at the meeting.



Please bring snacks
for the October
Meeting

President's Message

Dear Members,

Fall is officially here, and following a delightful and successful fall auction, we are heading toward our upcoming meeting on Sunday, October 18, where we will hold our annual officer and board nominations. See List on Pages 9-10.

Now is a wonderful time to think about what makes our society so special and why we need everyone to support the club by volunteering or helping in some way.

Being a member of the Southern Tier Orchid Society opens the door to so much more than just growing great plants. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge through expert-led education, source orchids at fantastic prices, or show your collection for ribbons and national recognition, you'll find it as a member. But perhaps the most rewarding part of membership is the lifelong friendship you'll share with fellow enthusiasts who are just as passionate about all things orchids as you are.

We want to make sure we can continue providing all these wonderful benefits for everyone. Just like keeping an orchid healthy with the right balance of water, light, and care, keeping our society thriving is a shared effort. When everyone pitches in a little, it lightens the load and keeps STOS strong.

As we look toward the upcoming year, we would love more members to get involved in whatever way suits them best:

- **Leadership & Board Roles:** Stepping forward to guide the club and keeping our operations running smoothly.
- **Supporting Members & Volunteers:** You do not have to hold an official office to make a difference! We welcome general volunteering and flexible, as-needed advisory support (such as occasional help with finance, legal, or event planning) from anyone who wants to pitch in without a heavy commitment.

I know everyone has busy schedules, but our club is truly at its best when we share responsibilities. You don't need to be an expert grower or administrator to help—just a willingness to be part of our community.

Note for the meeting: We will have official nomination forms and sign-up sheets available in person on October 18 for anyone who wants to review open roles and find a way to pitch in.

Let's work together to ensure our society continues to thrive for years to come!

Hope to see all of you on Sunday,

Linda

Treasurer's Report

Auction

Gross revenue: \$1891.81
Plants: -\$774.20
CC fees: -\$30.40
Net Revenue: \$1,087.21

Donation: \$33.64
Membership renewal: \$35

Overhead monthly costs: -\$156
(JCSC rental, refreshments, zoom, constant contact, accounting software)

Bank balance 10/5: \$7,213.11
This balance includes sales tax payable to NYS

I will be out of town for the October meeting, if you're looking to renew your membership for 2027, you can still bring cash/ check to the meeting. Carol Bayles will record your payment. You can also renew online [\(link\)](#) but note we lose money thru Paypal.

Or you can mail a check to our PO Box 263, Endicott, NY 13761.

Mari Stover-Ling, Treasurer

Southern Tier Orchid Society Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2026

We will now just send a link to the Meeting Minutes instead of printing them in the newsletter. The link is below. It is very easy to access the minutes this way and the board encourages everyone to take a moment to look them over. You will be voting to approve them at the next meeting.

If you have a problem accessing, please let us know at the meeting.

[GM.minutes.2026.Sept](#)

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 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 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

Meeting Time and Location

2-4 pm (1:30-2 is 'social time')

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 August 16 (possible date)

Sept 20 Fall Auction

Oct 18 Speaker Dennis Steinbeck from Flask and Flora

Nov 15 Speaker from J&L Orchids

Dec 20 Holiday Party



Please bring snacks for the
October Meeting

Officers and Committee Members

During our October meeting, we will officially open the floor to accept nominations and comments for all club officer positions and support positions

All officer positions are for one year, current officers must be re-elected if they are running. If the current officer is not running for re-election, we absolutely need someone to step up. Past officers will be happy to help you get started.

Committee members are appointed, and we are always happy to have many members in each committee, so not everyone has to cover every event. Note many positions can be shared. Ask a friend to partner with you.

Here is a list of officers and other positions and a very brief description of duties.

Officers - are voted on and serve on the Executive Board:

President (Linda is not running for re-election)

Presides at all meetings at which he or she is present and will exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Society. The President will obtain Board approval for any actions involving monetary policy, committee membership or other areas having significant impact on the organization.

Vice President (LuAnn is not running for re-election)

Performs the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the latter. Can help the president with any duties needed. We would like to consider this position as a co-president if possible.

Treasurer (Mari is not running for re-election)

Collects and records dues paid, maintains records of membership. The Treasurer will receive all Society monies and pay out all Society monies, to cover expenses of the Society. Will report income and expenses at each meeting.

Secretary (Melissa Bennett will run for re-election).

Keeps and writes up minutes of all General Membership and Executive Board meetings. Sends out and maintains Constant Contact emails. Melissa Bennett will run again.

AOS Representative (Polly Dillon is not running for re-election)

Provides the link between the AOS and the Society; reports on AOS items at each meeting and encourages individual AOS membership.

Members-at-Large (1 position open)

The 3 MaL are part of the executive board and serve 3-yr terms, so every year we elect one new member. Technically they are not officers, but get to have input in the running of the club.

Officers and Committee Members

Committees – Members are approved by the Board. Please offer to help in any committee you are interested in.

Show Committee runs the show with oversight by the President. Jeff Hackett absolutely needs a partner in this. A team, actually, please step up!

Plant Auction Committee (and Holiday orchids). Jeff and Jean Mint will keep going.

Meeting Program Coordinator arranges the meeting speakers. Jean Mint is current and does not really need help.

Newsletter Editor publishes the monthly newsletter, Carol Bayles is current and would love to have help.

Web Master keeps the web site up to date. We use the WIX platform. Carol Bayles is open to help, if just suggestions and ideas.

Social Media Coordinator (Facebook and Instagram) Jean keeps up Facebook, We need someone for Instagram and help with Facebook.

Librarian keeps track of library books. Laurel Shaeffer is current.

Social Events organizes refreshments for meetings, the show, the holiday party and the picnic. Ruth Allen is current but needs help. Need many folks here.

Membership Committee is new and involves welcoming new members and greeting at meetings, etc. Anitra Murphy and Melissa Bennett are current.

Nominating Committee: The committee includes Jeff Hackett, Karen Doolittle, and outgoing president Linda Mittel. Feel free to reach out to any committee member with questions or send an email to the club, STOSorchids@gmail.com

Please note that if no one wants to take a turn as an officer of the club, we will no longer have a club. As past President, VP and Show Chair, I would be happy to help you with any questions or concerns as you contemplate your decision.
Carol Bayles cjb4@cornell.edu



Notice of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Executive Summary Under Article X (Amendments) of our master bylaws, this notice provides the exact text of three proposed bylaw updates. While the Executive Board has reviewed and approved these changes, our governing rules require distributing the exact phrasing to all members in good standing in advance, followed by an open discussion and a formal ratification vote at our upcoming meeting on October 18, 2026.

Proposed Amendment 1: Election & Transition Timeline Shift

- **Affects:** Article IV, Section 1 (Officers and Elections)
- **Previous Approval Dates:** Executive Board voted unanimously on September 10, 2025; introduced to general membership on September 21, 2025.
- **Purpose:** To advance officer nominations, voting, and installation dates by one month so that operational handovers do not occur during the busy December holiday season. This also aligns our operating year with our fiscal year, preventing outgoing leaders from crafting budgets they won't execute.

Revised Text to be Adopted:

"The nominating committee will present the slate of Officers and necessary Board Members at the October general meeting. Officers, the AOS Representative, and Board Members at large will be elected by plurality vote of all members in good standing, present and voting at the meeting each November. Newly elected Officers and Board Members will officially assume their duties on January 1 of the subsequent calendar year, designating the month of December as an active operational transition and training period."

Proposed Amendment 2: Treasury & Electronic Payments

- **Affects:** Article V, Section 1 (Duties of Officers and Board Members)
- **Previous Approval Dates:** Approved by Executive Board on February 16, 2025; introduced and approved by general membership in March 2025.
- **Purpose:** To modernize financial operations by replacing the outdated restriction requiring disbursements to be made "by check only," formally permitting secure digital banking and card options.

Revised Text to be Adopted:

"The Treasurer will receive all Society monies and pay out all Society monies by check, electronic transfer, or authorized digital payment methods to cover those budgeted expenses of the Society, or as are approved by the Treasurer and one other member of the Executive Board, or by the membership for unbudgeted expenditures."

(Continued on next page)

Notice of Proposed Bylaw Amendments (continued)

Proposed Amendment 3: Financial Calendar Synchronization

● Affects: Article V, Section 2 (Duties of Officers and Board Members) ● Previous Approval Dates: Executive Board voted unanimously on September 10, 2025; presented to membership on September 21, 2025.

● Purpose: To permanently synchronize our administrative calendar with our fiscal calendar for complete reporting consistency and transparency.

Revised Text to be Adopted:

"At the Annual Meeting in November, the Treasurer shall give a summary of all income and disbursements for the year and how they compare to the budget. All records and account access will be turned over to the incoming Treasurer by January 1 and will be audited by the Executive Board at their next meeting to ensure that all bills have been paid, all funds are accounted for, all committee moneys have been returned to the general fund, and that the newly adopted budget accurately reflects expected income and expenditures."

Next Steps & Voting Procedure

1. **Member Review:** Review the changes listed above prior to the meeting.
2. **Open Discussion:** at our regular meeting on October 18, 2026.
3. **Ratification Vote:** A formal vote will be held during the October 18 meeting.



Do Orchids Need Sunscreen or Woolly Blankets?

As autumn air arrives in the Southern Tier and local trees begin changing color, the landscape offers a familiar seasonal show for the leaf-peepers to ogle. But did you know that orchids display very similar colors? While the underlying triggers differ, the biological mechanisms are closely related.

The common denominator is a protective plant pigment called **anthocyanin**. Understanding how this pigment works helps explain how orchids respond to environmental stress and light.

Plant leaves are green because of chlorophyll, a pigment housed inside microscopic structures called chloroplasts. At the center of every chlorophyll molecule is a single magnesium ion anchored by nitrogen atoms—which is why regular feeding with a balanced fertilizer is necessary to keep plants green and healthy.

Inside these chloroplast "factories," the plant performs photosynthesis: combining sunlight, water (H₂O) from the roots, and carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air to produce glucose (a simple sugar) for energy, while releasing oxygen (O₂) as a byproduct.

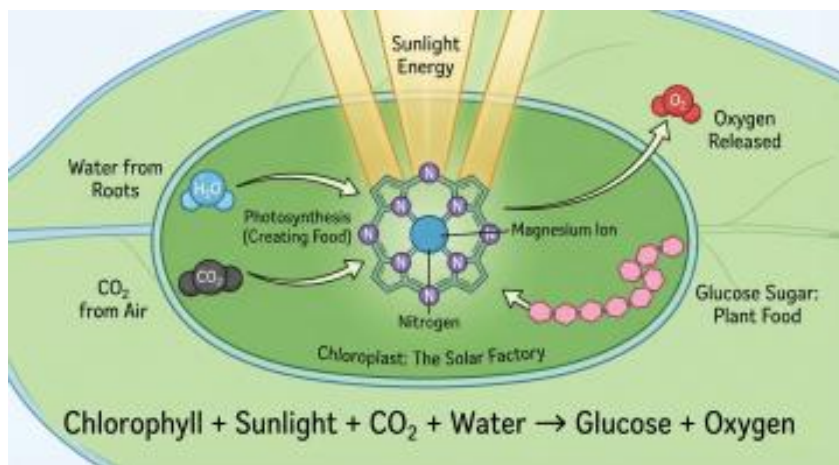


Figure 1. Chloroplast “solar factory” at work (Illustration created using AI tools for the Southern Tier Orchid Society newsletter by the author.)

Plants rely on a transport system made up of special internal tubes called the xylem and the phloem, which act like the plant's blood vessels and carry water, sugars, and nutrients between the roots and the leaves.

When temperatures drop in autumn, deciduous trees slow this circulation and draw nutrients back toward the roots. As green chlorophyll breaks down and fades, the exposed leaves become vulnerable to sunlight and cold stress.

To protect themselves, plants increase production of **anthocyanin**, acting as a natural sunscreen just like a bottle of plant sunscreen lotion against harsh UV rays, while also helping them hunker down against chillier temperatures, almost as if pulling on a cozy wool blanket. Yes, plants have internal hormones that control every aspect of growth and reproductive blooming; in this case, plant stress hormones regulate the chemical response, triggering pigment production during cold, drought, physical damage, and excessive light. All orchids can produce anthocyanins, though some are genetically wired to produce more than others—explaining why some varieties flush a deep, dark purple while others show subtle freckles or margin blushing.

While outdoor trees use **anthocyanin** as a seasonal transition before dropping their leaves, indoor tropical orchids use it year-round as a diagnostic indicator. A light purple or red margin or speckling typically indicates the plant is receiving optimal light levels to encourage future blooms. However, if an entire leaf turns dark purple or develops a leathery texture, the orchid is receiving too much light, and moving it back from the window or adjusting grow lights resolves the issue.

While many orchids develop harmless genetic freckles, physical damage from pests like spider mites, scale, or thrips can cause red spots or rings. When plant tissue is injured, local **anthocyanin** production acts as part of the healing response. It can be tricky to distinguish a harmless genetic freckle from an infectious agent or pest issue. If you look closely, natural freckles are usually smooth and flat with the leaf surface. However, if you see stippling, raised areas, a silvery sheen, or sticky residue alongside those spots, grab your hand lens—it's likely pest damage rather than normal pigmentation!

Examining leaf coloration provides a reliable gauge for managing light and monitoring plant health right on the windowsill or grow room. So the next time you admire the brilliant colors sweeping across the Southern Tier and other areas, take a moment to appreciate that same chemistry unfolding right at home among your favorite orchids. After all, orchids have certainly mastered the art of taking care of themselves!

Linda Mittel

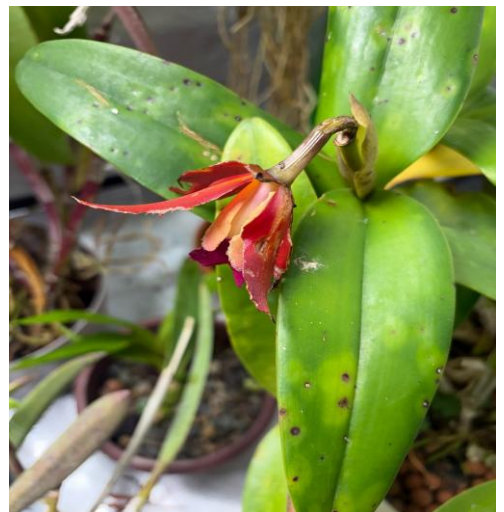


Figure 2. Anthocyanin spots produced after insect damage.

Auction Photos



Plants were purchased by vendor Tropica Exotica
(coordinated by Jean Mint and Jeff Hackett)

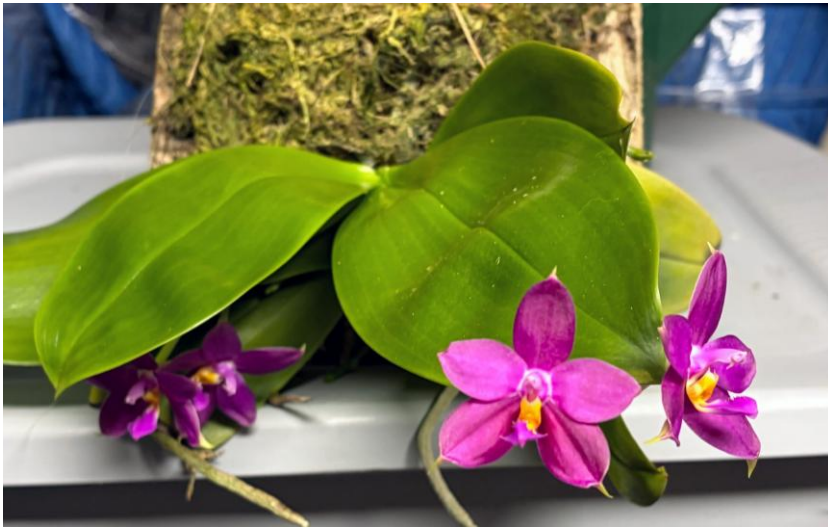


Complimentary tote bags were offered for members purchasing three or more plants at the auction

Member Blooms



From the Holiday Party 2025 -- Chris Lewis-King



Phal hybrid: Chieniung Purple Jewel "CTL #1 x Zheng Min Michohollens – Linda Mittel

Blooms from Melissa Bennett

Na



Paph. spicerianum



Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.)
Fire Jewel 'Volcano Queen'



Epicatanthe (Ett.) Don Herman Carmela
'Ratsissima Spots'
(formerly known as Epilaeliocattleya (Eplc.))

Blooms from Jean Mint



Lc. Jupiter Drops



Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Orange Sunset' AM/AOS



Dendrobium pseudolamellatum



Lepanthes telipogoniflora



Blooms from Angel Caoile



Brassanthe (Bsn.) 'Maikai'



Brassolaelia (Bl.) Yellow Bird



Phal. Norman's Yellow (Peloric)



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

Blooms from Angel Caoile



Calianthe 'Big Time'



Oncidium 'Firecat'



Phragmipedium 'Eric Young'



Slc. Bella del Caribe

Blooms from Carol Bayles



Slc. Hsin Buu Lady 'YT' AM/AOS - from Holiday Party 2020 , 4 buds



Phal. Memoria Val Rettig (Peloric) – SEPOS 2026



Paph. Hawaiian Fortune - STOS Spring auction 2023



Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Trinity' AM/RHS- bought at CNYOS show 2019