



Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

Next Meeting September 20, 2pm

Fall Auction

We will have our Fall auction at the meeting this month. Auction plants have been acquired from Tropical Exotiques this year and we have PLENTY of mini orchids to go around. We will have predominantly more of the weirdo plants many of our members love but will also have an arrangement of some of the "normal". We will have multiple specimen sized paphiopedilum available during this auction. We also have some donated plants from a friend of Linda; many are Catasetum types.

We are accepting donated plants. In addition to this, STOS members are welcome to place their plants on consignment. Proceeds on consignment plants are divided 50/50 between the STOS and the seller. If you can provide the name and a photo of the flower for each donated plant, that would be helpful. Send to STOSorchids.auction@gmail.com

This year the auction committee will not be providing a list of plants in advance, but we will have sample photos of all the flowers available during the auction in addition to the general growing guidelines for the plants.



There will be Phrags and Catesetums in the auction

Summer Picnic

The picnic provided a delightful opportunity to catch up with members of the Southern Tier Orchid Society, share summer stories, summer blooms, and delicious food together. Tioga Gardens hosted us with the perfect spot, and despite the summer shower we stayed dry and warm.

My young daughter enjoyed meeting new friends, playing corn hole, and looking for frogs around the pond. We especially enjoyed the scrumptious dishes to pass, and all the beautiful blooms brought for Show and Tell. It was the perfect way to gear up for the upcoming fall auction!

--Julia Gillis



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 Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

Web Master Carol Bayles

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Email addresses:

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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 August 16 (possible date)

Sept 20 Fall Auction

Oct 18 Speaker from Flask and Flora

Nov 15 Speaker from J&L Orchids

Dec 20 Holiday Party



Special thanks to Bernice Magee for sending the article about the white-fringed bog orchid,

Leadership Positions or Support Crew for STOS

Here's Your Chance to Suggest Someone — Including Yourself

As our club looks toward the future, we're opening the door to new ideas and friendly faces! You don't need to be an expert grower—or even keep orchids at home—to play a vital role in our community.

Whether you share a love for orchid growing, orchid conservation, art, photography or, importantly, organizing events and welcoming people, there is a place for you here. If you enjoy being surrounded by people who love plants and enjoy helping out behind the scenes, we'd love to have your inspiration and talents! If you like to lead and be in charge of things, this is your chance. If you prefer to remain low-key but have computer skills, we have many opportunities for you, too.

The best way to learn about orchids is to get to know other club members. And the best way to do that is to get involved!

Submitting your name or the name of someone (who has given permission) involves no commitment—it's just a great, low-pressure way to jump in, share a skill, or highlight a fellow member who can help our club to blossom. If you're interested, sign up at the link below:

[STOS Nomination Form](#)



Gardening Beyond Orchids: Cultivating Community Across New York

Members of the Southern Tier Orchid Society often focus on the intricate beauty of orchids, but our shared passion for plants extends far beyond a single plant family. This season offered two wonderful opportunities to step outside our usual sphere, connect with fellow plant enthusiasts across the region, and celebrate the broader gardening community.

STOS was invited to attend the 70th anniversary celebration of the Endwell Garden Club, which operates under the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State (FGCNYS) and the broader umbrella of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

We were warmly welcomed, and the gathering was a wonderful chance to connect with local growers. The experience underscored how valuable collaboration is across all our local plant groups—whether we focus on orchids, dahlias, roses, or general horticulture, we all share the same fundamental love for growing plants and supporting one another. Members who attended and helped included Jane Trey, Anitra Murphy, Kaylee Brand, Jean and Xan Mint, Pixie Senesac, and Linda Mittel.

Recently, club member Pixie Senesac and I traveled to Syracuse to participate in the Horticulture Division at the Great New York State Fair. The cut flower section is an annual Fair exhibit, featuring a wide range of unique and commonly grown Northeast garden plants—including dahlias, roses, hydrangeas, gladiolas, and more.

We were thrilled to celebrate Pixie's outstanding entry: her striking 6½-inch yellow dahlia took top honors and was awarded **Queen of the Show**, earning a prominent place at the top of the Fair's official "Court of Honor" display.

Linda Mittel, President



A Big Thank You to Jean Mint!

STOS wants to extend a tremendous thank you to Jean Mint for representing the Southern Tier Orchid Society at the Spencer Market! This marks the third year Jean promoted us in her regular booth, after requests from patrons. She offers to repot their orchids as a demonstration and this year she repotted several plants. The Southern Tier Orchid Society has supported her by supplying potting supplies and plants to help promote our club. We also donated STOS T-shirts for a raffle and Jean gave away 3 plants and 2 T-shirts.

The turnout at the market was fantastic, with a large crowd stopping by the booth to learn more. Visitors were thrilled with the experience, and we received wonderful feedback. The participants absolutely loved the donations, along with their freshly potted plants! Perhaps some of them will turn up at our meetings.

Jean is a vital part of our Society's leadership. She serves as an executive board member at large, lends her talents to the auction and program committee, and works hard to maintain our Facebook website! Thank you, Jean, for everything you do for our society—from your continued dedication at the Spencer Market to your invaluable work behind the scenes year-round!

--Linda M



Masdevallia orchid necklace from a jewelry vendor in Quebec, who is a possible addition to our show
—Jean Mint



Brassavola cordata x B. nodosa —Jean Mint

Native Orchid



This Purple Fringed orchid was photographed by **Charles Ufford** (CNYOS member) on July 17 of this year. Charles identified it as a lesser purple fringed orchid, *Platanthera psycodes*, found in a former revolutionary war right of way to a bog iron smelting site, now under high intensity power lines near Lebanon, Pa. This orchid is very similar to another species, *P. grandiflora*.

Boggy beauty: White-fringed bog-orchid

By Colby Galliher



Illustration by
Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

Along the edge of a remote pond, among a spongy carpet of interlaced vegetation, an orchid of graceful and gossamer beauty rises. Its mass of exquisite white flowers, perched atop a slender stalk, resembles at one glance a medieval mace, at another a bog-wandering spirit in its torn, ghostly shawl. It stops me in my paces.

White-fringed bog-orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) is the showiest of our region's 13 bog orchids, all members of the genus *Platanthera*. Others include lesser, purple-fringed bog-orchid (*P. psycodes*) and north wind bog-orchid (*P. aquilonis*). Despite their common name, *Platanthera* species occur across a variety of habitats, from moist forest openings to the aquatic digs where I came across white-fringed bog-orchid.

Where it occurs, this elegant showstopper is difficult to miss. White-fringed bog-orchid usually flowers in July in our region, with specific bloom times shifting year to year based on temperature and rainfall. The species will sometimes fail to bloom in a given year if drought or poor environmental conditions are present.

An arrangement of 10 to 20 white blooms, collectively called an inflorescence, encircles the top of a stem that can grow anywhere from one to two feet tall. Each individual flower is a delicate configuration of four snow-white petals radiating in four directions. [sic]

One of these petals gives white-fringed bog-orchid both its common and scientific names. The bottom petal, which droops downward, is called a labellum, or lip. Close inspection of the species' labellum reveals fringed edges like torn fabric, making clear the inspiration for the plant's common name. Its species name, *blephariglottis*, combines two words: *blephari*, for eyebrow or eyelash, which are fringed, and *glottis*, for tongue.

Another part of the flower's anatomy illuminates the plant's pollination ecology. Extending behind each flower is a roughly inch-long nectar spur, a narrow structure that harbors a sweet liquid lure for long-tongued pollinators. These include yellow and half-black bumblebees and monarch and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, among many others, but a 1976 study published in the journal *Botanical Gazette* found that nocturnal moths are the chief pollinators of white-fringed bog-orchid.

When thirsty visitors alight on one of the orchid's flowers for refreshment, they do not leave empty-handed (or, in this case, empty-eyed). To access the nectar within the flower's spur, the pollinator must press its face into the spur's opening. As they do so, they come in contact with a minute dollop of pollen, or a pollinarium, which adheres to the insect's eyes. The carrier will then pollinate other white-fringed bog-orchids as it repeats the pollination process in search of more nectar. While shorter-tongued pollinators will stop at the orchids, they are less able to avail themselves of the sugary treat within and, by extension, do not serve as effective pollinators of the species.

White-fringed bog-orchid is more than a source of sustenance for pollinators. According to the Native Plant Trust, the species is a strong indicator of the health and integrity of the open peatlands it often inhabits. An abundance of white-fringed bog-orchids in a bog suggests that the *Sphagnum* mosses, which form the peat substrate of such ecosystems, are intact and relatively undisturbed by human activity.

The species' sensitivity to environmental changes helps explain its rarity in our region. Threats to white-fringed bog-orchid, which is classified as rare in Vermont and uncommon in New Hampshire, mirror those to other *Platanthera* species; five out of the 13 are ranked as either rare, extremely rare or threatened in one or both states.

Disturbance or destruction of wetlands is the primary threat to bog-orchids. Many *Platanthera* species are sensitive to stressors like acid rain and waterborne pollution, as well as rising temperatures that influence rainfall regimes and water levels in aquatic environments. Illegal removal of orchids from natural habitats has depleted populations in some places. A prolonged lack of natural disturbance, such as fire or storms, can also negatively affect white-fringed bog-orchid by allowing woody encroachment on its preferred habitat.

Sensitive as it may be, white-fringed bog-orchid's beauty is a treasure of the botanical world and a sublime sight if you're lucky enough to spot one blooming in your local bog, fen or wetland.

Colby Galliher (colbygalliher.com) writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. This Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine, a quarterly magazine based in New Hampshire, whose mission is to advance a culture of forest stewardship in the Northeast.

Taken directly from:

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/environment/boggy-beauty-white-fringed-bog-orchid/>

Image from <https://botanyincontext.com/platanthera-on-the-fringes/> which has a lot more information.



Platanthera blephariglottis

Local but not Native Orchid



Epipactis helleborine growing in my garden in Brooktondale NY. It is not native and heralds from Asia. Some people think it is an invasive pest, but I only have one here and there. Nothing special but it is an orchid! – Carol B



Coelogyne (mooreana x flaccida), Jannine Banks 'Snow White' 1995 HCC/AOS/OSNSW. Growing in my house, it is my pride and joy. –Carol B

Summer Blooms



Rlc. Volcano Classic Volcano Queen
- Mellissa Bennett



Ascofinetia Twinkle - Mellissa Bennett



Paph sukhlakulii hybrid noid – Julia Gillis

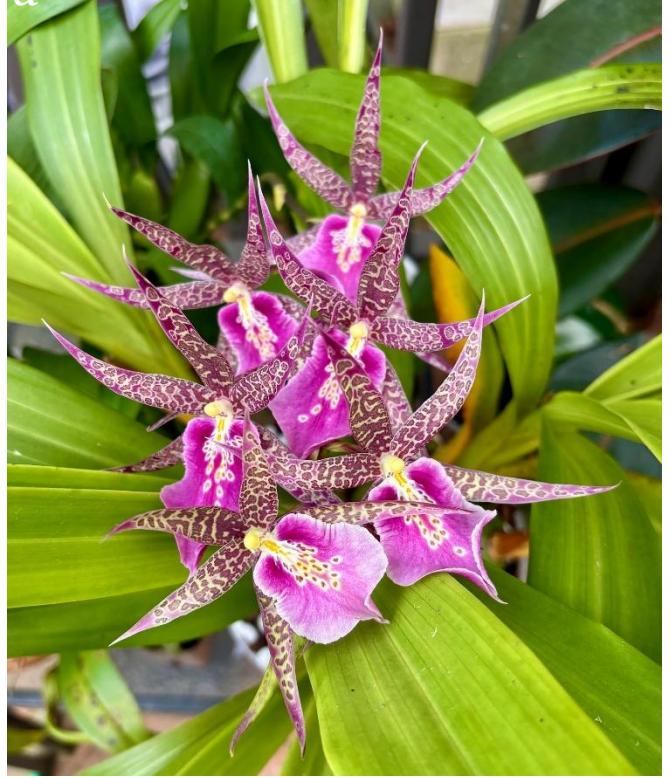


Tolumnia Sarah's Stunner "Karat" HCC/AOS
Donna Coleman won this award at the 2025
GROS show. The picture appeared in the July
2026 issue of ORCHIDS Magazine, p 654.
This is Donna's 3rd AOS award.
Congratulations Donna!

Summer Blooms from Julia Gillis



Brassocattleya Keowee Mendenhall



Miltassia CM Fitch Izumi



Phragmites and Bulbos



Phrag extaminodum

Summer Blooms from Julia Gillis



Paph barbatum



Paph Stone Lovely x sukhakulii



Paph wardii



Paph Petula Dramatically



Phrag besseae

Summer Blooms from Luis Matienzo



Phrag. Pink panther



Phal. Pusan (unregistered cross)

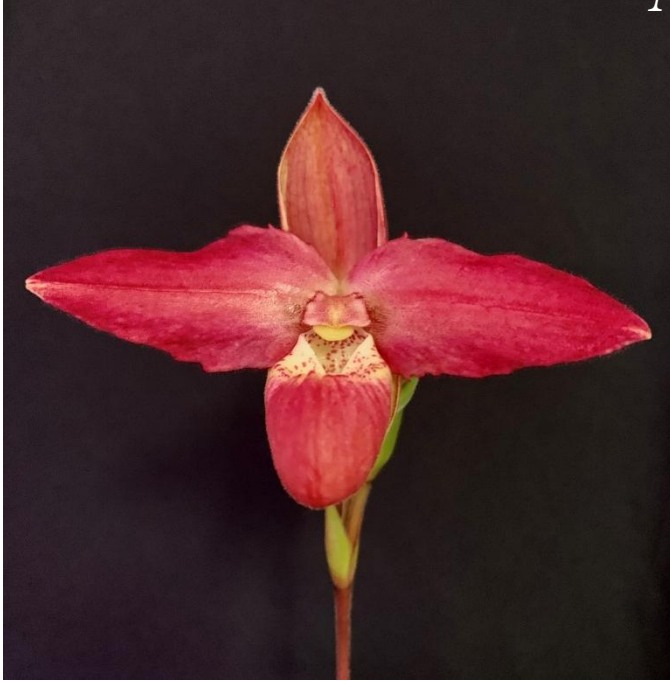


Phrag. humboldtii



Schoenorchis tixieri

Summer Blooms from Luis Matienzo



Phrag. Amazon Sunset

These two clearly have *Phrag. besseae* in their background



Phrag. Scarlett OHara Joan AM AOS



Phrag. Incan Treasure _ first flower



Phrag. Inca Embers

Summer Blooms from Laurel Shaeffer



Catt. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'.



Blc. Roberts Choice 'Dee'

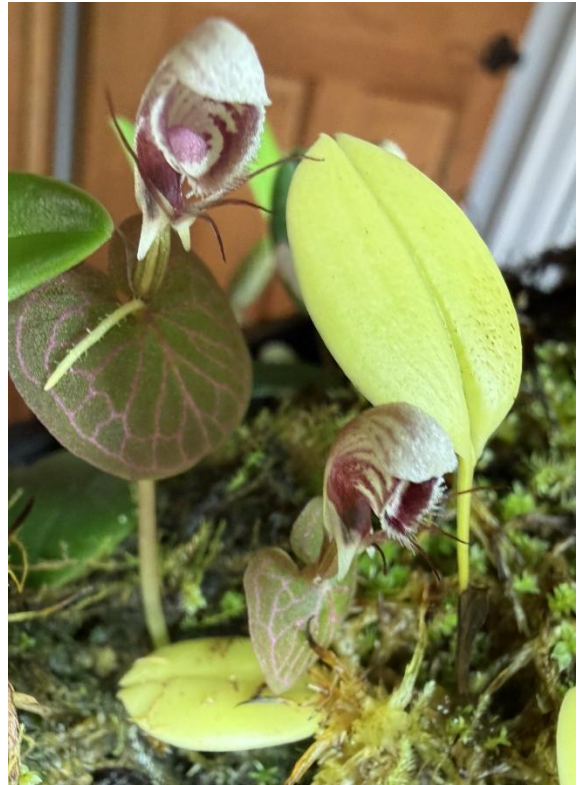


Stanhopea (Stan.) Aidan x radiosa

Summer Blooms from Jean Mint



Ancistrochilus (Anc.) rothschildlanus x sib



Corybas ecarinatus (helmet orchid)



Tolumnia Zgz. Orchidom Savage Valentine

Summer Blooms



Procatavola (Pcv.) Key Lime Stars x
Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizazz'
– Bernice Magee

Procatavola is an intergeneric hybrid
genus combining plants from the
genera *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, and
Prosthechea (formerly part of
Encyclia).



Gongora galeata – Jean Mint