



# *Holiday Party!*

*at the  
Dec 21 Meeting*

*Please bring a dish or  
dessert to share*

*Main course and  
Beverages provided*

*Free blooming orchid  
for members!*

## Holiday Party Details

**Date:** Sunday, December 21, 2025  
**Location:** Johnson City Senior Center  
30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY 13790.



Set Up: 1:00 pm  
Meal: 2:00 pm  
Meeting: 3:00 pm

- After the meal, there will be a short meeting followed by a club photograph, Show Table, and our Exciting Holiday Plant Drawing. We hope there is plenty of time for socializing as well.
- Plan to bring a side dish/dessert to share, and STOS will provide baked ham, turkey, and beverages. Bring your own *reusable* plate and dinnerware to minimize waste.
- Get your ticket for the Holiday Plant Drawing (one plant/household), with paid 2025 dues.
- Plants left over will be auctioned.
- The Treasurer will accept 2026 Membership fees by check, cash, or credit card.
- A few people to help set up or stay later to help clean up is appreciated 



2026  
membership  
entitles you to a  
free plant next  
year!

### Membership Dues

Dues for 2026 are:  
\$25 per individual or  
\$30 for a family or household.  
2026 membership entitles you to a free  
plant next year!

They can be paid online at  
[www.southerntierorchids.org](http://www.southerntierorchids.org) under Member  
Info or via cash, check or credit card at any  
meeting.

## From the President

### Celebrating a Successful Year and Looking Ahead!

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude for what has been a truly successful year for the Southern Tier Orchid Society!

We have much to celebrate: a **boost in membership**, an incredibly **successful annual show**, and a calendar packed with **outstanding educational meetings**. This success is entirely thanks to the dedication and continuous support of our members and current volunteers. **Thank you!**

### An Opportunity to Shape 2026

Our Annual Show is successful because our club remains healthy and vibrant **throughout the year**. As we turn our focus to 2026, we invite *all* members to **take the opportunity to get involved!**

Participation on a committee is the best way to maximize the value of your membership and help guide the club's direction and success. Your effort ensures the ongoing prosperity of our meetings and educational programs and, ultimately, makes our next show possible. We have many committees and volunteer positions seeking help. Look over this newsletter and find the member info section; you will see all the committees listed there. See what piques your interest, and contact me at [stosorchids@gmail.com](mailto:stosorchids@gmail.com) or any club member to find me.

We look forward to partnering with you in the New Year to keep our momentum going!

Finally, a warm welcome to our **newly elected Officers (Directors) and Member-at-Large!** We look forward to your leadership in 2026.

Thank you all again for your enthusiasm and support. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Linda Mittel  
STOS President



# Member News

## The Perfect Gift for the Plant Lover: STOS Membership!

Are you struggling to find a unique gift for that special plant enthusiast in your life? Look no further!



Give the gift of community, education, and botanical beauty with a **Gift Membership to the Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS)!** They don't have to live in New York!!

While they may not own an orchid yet, every plant lover appreciates the opportunity to learn and connect with fellow, green-thumbed friends.

### STOS Membership Benefits Include:

- **Monthly Email Newsletter:** Stay informed with tips, tricks, and society news delivered right to your inbox.
- **Show off your blossoms:** Chance to have your orchid blossoms featured in the newsletter.
- **Educational Talks:** Exclusive access to our monthly speakers and programs, covering everything from orchid culture to general botany.
- **Hybrid Meetings:** For those who cannot attend in person, we offer Zoom meetings
- **Repotting Workshops:** Hands-on opportunities to learn essential skills from our experts.
- **Show Perks:** Invitations to participate in our annual Show, including a **free entrance fee**, and the opportunity to purchase orchid plants at great prices
- **Help with your Orchid Plants:** Community of long-time growers to help with "problem" plants.

It's a gift that keeps giving all year! Take care of some holiday shopping today.

Sign up now at our website: [www.SouthernTierOrchids.org](http://www.SouthernTierOrchids.org)

Available 24/7 for last-minute holiday gift giving. Membership is \$25.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a joint membership (2 in the same household).



# Member Info

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**

Linda Mittel

**Vice President**

Ruth Allen, Luanne Meyers to start Jan 1

**Treasurer**

Mari Stoverling-Ingel

**Secretary**

Melissa Bennett

**AOS Representative**

Polly Dillon

**Members-At-Large**

Jeff Hackett

Gail Gunsalus

Jean Mint

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**Auction Committee** 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** Jean Mint, vacancy

**Show Chair** Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

**Web Master** Carol Bayles

**Web Site:**

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

**Email addresses:**

[STOSorchids@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids@gmail.com)

[STOSorchids.auction@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids.auction@gmail.com)

[STOSorchids.marketing@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids.marketing@gmail.com)

[STOSorchids.membership@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids.membership@gmail.com)

[STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com)

[STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com)

**Google Group (Listserv)**

[STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com](mailto:STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com)

**Facebook:**

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

**Instagram:**

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

## 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  
**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  
STOS 7:30a, Judging 8a–11a, Public  
11a–6p  
**May 3** STOS Orchid Show  
Public 10a–4:30p, Takedown 4:30p–6p  
**May 17** General Meeting, Repotting Workshop

## SAVE THE DATE

2026 STOS Annual Show at the

Johnson City Senior Center

30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY

13790

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>

## STOS Needs YOU

- Southern Tier Orchid Society is looking for a volunteer to **Shine a Spotlight** on STOS!!
- We need your digital talents to promote STOS on Facebook and/or Instagram.
- We want to show off STOS through gorgeous blossoms at our meetings and in our newsletter, blue ribbons at our annual show, and our fun summer picnic and holiday party.

You can work with our Newsletter/webmaster to share photos, event graphics, and society news, and to meet fellow members. If you are a comfortable user of Facebook and/or Instagram or would like to learn, contact one of the officers at the Holiday Party or email [STOSorchids@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids@gmail.com). We can tell what we need for the position. Social media tells people we exist. Social media proves we're exciting, active, and essential—and it's the fastest way to grow our next member."

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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



## Neighboring Societies and 2026 Shows

CNYOS – Central NY Orchid Society (Syracuse)

GROS – Genesee Region OS (Rochester)

    Show **April 16-19** [www.geneseeorchid.org/annual-orchid-show/](http://www.geneseeorchid.org/annual-orchid-show/)

NFOS – Niagara Frontier OS (Buffalo)

    Spring Orchid Fest **March 6-8** [www.buffalogardens.com/events/orchid-fest/#events](http://www.buffalogardens.com/events/orchid-fest/#events)

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

    Show **Feb. 20-22** [www.deepcutorchidscioety.org/show](http://www.deepcutorchidscioety.org/show)

SEPOS – Southern PA Orchid Society (Oaks, PA)

    Show **March 27-29** [www.sepos.org/show](http://www.sepos.org/show)

Albany Orchid Society (Albany, NY)

CPOS – Central PA OS (State College)

STOS – Show **May 1-3**

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.

# Meeting Minutes

## SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY (STOS) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting:** General Membership Meeting **Date:** November 16, 2025

**Location:** Johnson City Senior Center

Presiding Officer: Linda Mittel, President

Recording Officer: Melissa Bennett, Interim Secretary

The meeting was called to order @ 2PM to ensure a prompt start for the Speaker immediately following the session. About 35 members and Zoom attendees attended the meeting.

### Officers' Reports

#### President's Report

The executive board meeting was scheduled for the 19th of this month, but due to conflicts with the mini meeting, it will have to be rescheduled. Linda will send emails to the new members of the executive board after today's election to begin their onboarding.

#### Secretary's Report

Notes from the last general meeting were posted to the November 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 filed the Treasurer's Report. Our current Savings Balance is available by contacting the treasurer. Total expenses for the Fall Quarter was \$1264, after paying today's speaker and paying the meeting room rental. We are currently accepting membership renewals. During this period, we brought in \$1981 from the fall auction. Including membership dues, our total income for that period was \$2236. Operating margin was \$917.18. The report was submitted in writing and accepted as presented.

### Committee Reports

#### Holiday Party Announcement

Ruth Allen said that the Holiday Party will start at 1:30 PM. The main course will be provided. Please bring a side dish to pass. An email will be sent to the membership to RSVP so a headcount can be obtained. Melissa Bennett announced that an email would be sent out as a reminder

#### Mini-Meetings Announcement

Melissa Bennett reminded everyone that a mini-meeting would be held soon and that there was still time to sign up for it.

#### Auction/Holiday Plant Committee Report

Jeff Hackett announced that he is getting nice plants for the holiday party.

# ***Meeting Minutes, cont.***

## **New Business**

### **Election of Officers for 2026 term**

Paula Matienzo conducted the election. She read out the slate of nominees for the officers, viz.:

President - Linda Mittel

Vice-President - Luanne Meyers

Secretary - Melissa Bennett

Treasurer - Mari Stover-Ling

AOS Representative - Polly Dillon

Member-at-Large - Jean Mint

After each nominee was announced, the membership then elected each nominee by unanimous vote.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned @ **2:45 PM**. The raffle took place immediately afterwards.

### **Speaker**

The invited speaker, Beth Davis of Waldor Orchids, gave a presentation titled "What Is A Beth Plant? Welcome to the Weird, Wacky, World of Orchids".

### **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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Linda Mittel

Onc. Twinkle 'Pink Fantasy'  
-- Alexandria Mint

# Mini-Meeting News

This November, we had our second fall mini-meeting on the mechanics of watering. Seven members participated. With probably decades of orchid growing experience in virtual attendance, less experienced orchid growers like myself had an opportunity to ask questions about watering our orchids. We discussed various topics for over an hour, such as adjusting the frequency of fertilizing to one's watering regimen and using reverse osmosis to improve water quality.

## More Mini-Meetings

### Orchid Propagation: From One to Many

**Wednesday December 10 7PM**



"My orchid made a seed pod!  
What do I do?"



"I think I have a keiki...how long do I  
leave it on the mother plant?"

From dividing to flasking, let's explore the different ways our favorite plants can be propagated!

So [Signup](#) soon if you want to join us!



# Mini-Meeting News

## 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

## Show Table – Angel Caoile



*Laelia* Shelly Huynh



*Lockhartia (Lhta.) bennettii*



*Brassolaelia (Bl.) Nodosa Yellow Bird*



*Oncostele (Ons.) Firecat 'Harmony'*

# Show Table – Angela Caoile



*Phal.* Norman's Yellow Batman – note this is a peloric flower

A peloric orchid is a type of orchid that exhibits a mutation resulting in a change in the symmetry of its flowers, often making them appear more radially symmetrical than the typical bilateral symmetry of most orchids. This mutation can cause petals to resemble the lip (labellum) of the orchid, or can result in other unusual floral characteristics. Sometimes the flowers don't fully open.

The term "peloric" comes from the Greek word "pelōros," meaning monstrous or extraordinary. It is not a disease and many peloric flowers are truly extraordinary.

Pelorism is often found in *Phalaenopsis*, and also in the *Cattleya* Alliance, *Vanda* Alliance and even some *Dendrobiums*.



*Phrag.* Memoria Dick Clemens (besseae x sargentianum )

Mrs. Elizabeth Besse, a member of an orchid collecting party from the Selby Botanic Gardens (Florida), was the first to find *Phrag. besseae* in the wild in 1981. Apparently, she found it by accident while answering a call of nature!

It was growing in semi-shade on wet granite rocks at an altitude of 1100m in Peru. Subsequently other colonies of the species were found further north in Ecuador, again growing on wet granite rocks at altitudes of 1000-1200m. It is never found in large numbers but the brilliant red color of its flowers makes it difficult to miss when in bloom.

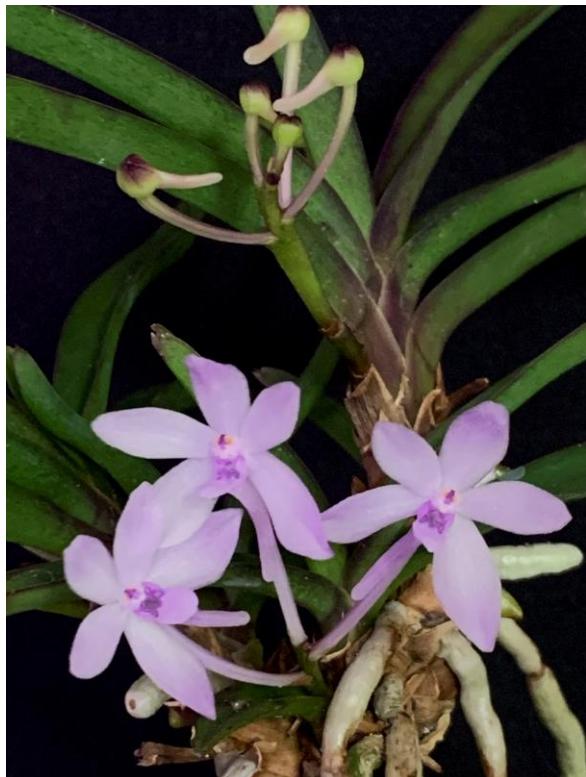
# Show Table – Luis Matienzo



Paph Elsa de Matienzo, a hybrid of *Paph. tranlienianum* x In Charm Topaz



Wilsonara (now Zelenkocidium) Calico Gem, a hybrid of *Onc. Cranberry Marble* x *Zel. onusta*



*Vandochostylis* (Vach.) Yuan Dung  
Godzilla, (Vach. Charm x *V. nana*)



*Tuberolabium kotoense*

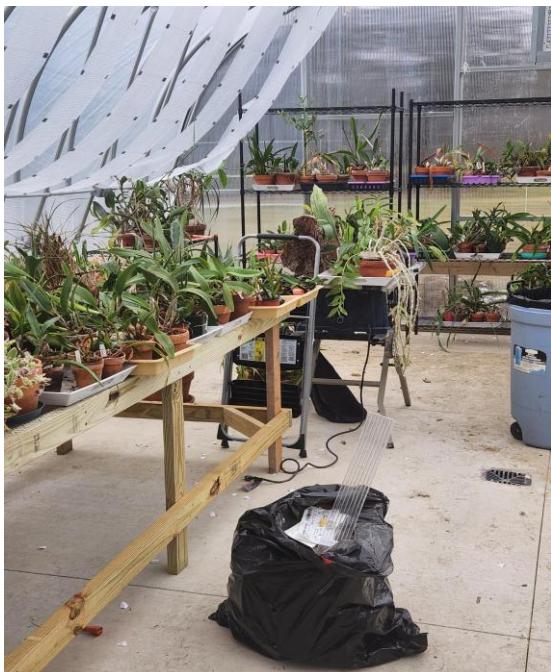
# Show Table – Laurel Schaefer



*Vanda tricolor*



*Mormolyca ringens*



*Laurel's greenhouse has orchids in it now!*



# Show Table – Linda Mittel



Phrag. Spot On



Vanda Nana x Vanda Charm-Lou  
Sneary



Rhyncostylis cattleanthe (Rth.) Nell Hammer 'STK'



Ansellia africana

# Orchids in Art



The designer made the sleeves of the gown look like orchids and the gloves look like stems. Sent by Bernice Magee from her granddaughter. Since the head of the model was cut off, I added one.