



May 2021

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

President's Message

Hello Fellow Orchid Society Members,

When we revised the Bylaws, we changed the calendar so that elected positions run from November 1 - October 31. This means nominations will take place at our September meeting and voting at our October meeting. All officers are elected for one year so all will be up for re-election. Board members at large have staggered 3-year terms, one expires every year. All officers should consider whether they want to run again. Also, there are several committee chairs that need to be filled. I included a list of committees after the list of officers on page 2 in this newsletter and a description of open positions on page 5. Currently I am doing too many things and I hope to pass several of these on to other members.

I encourage everyone to become more active in our society. It is actually a lot of fun to be involved in directing our group, even in small ways. Start thinking about this now. You don't have to commit until next September but if you are interested, please let me know or speak up at the May meeting. We can help you decide!

This is the last newsletter until September. After our May meeting we will adjourn for the summer. Have a fun but safe summer.

Hope to see you at the Zoom meeting.

--Carol Bayles

Speaker, May 16 Meeting

Peter T. Lin, "Genus Dendrobium: a family portrait of Dendrobium species"

Peter T. Lin, of Diamond Orchids, started growing orchids over 35 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 15 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again! He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country.

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He is also known as "Mr Sophronitis" as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, outdoors, as well as an offsite greenhouse. <http://www.diamondorchids.com/>



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Contributions, including pictures to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed! Send to the editor at cjb4@cornell.edu

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Auction Committee Pete O'Connell

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Facebook:

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

Email address:

STOSorchids@gmail.com

Calendar

All meetings will be via Zoom until the threat of Covid-19 has passed. The link will be emailed to members within 1-2 weeks of the meeting. Meetings are 2-4pm.

May 16, 2021 General Meeting – Peter T Lin speaker on Dendroboiums

Late May? Field Trip to see Lady Slipper orchids blooming in Hammond Hill State Forest, led by Carol Bayles

Summer Recess

August Picnic tentative, Anne Quain's house

Report from Spring Wildflower & Orchid Show at Sonnenberg Gardens

A few members attended this orchid show this year or other years. The format seems to be similar every year.

In the greenhouses most of the orchids have been there a long time, large and often unruly. In bloom were some beautiful large Cattleyas, Cymbidiums and Oncidiums and many others. There was also a display by Murray's Orchids and one by the Rochester (Genesee) Society. These were very beautiful, as expected. In the gift shop, the orchids for sale were purchased from Hawaii and were not from the Sonnenberg collection, much to my dismay. On hand to help was a member of the Rochester club. We had a nice chat.

He was giving out slips of paper with the websites of many local orchid societies. STOS was listed, but not the website, as he said he could not reach it! He did have our Facebook page, and you can get to the website from it.

I think we can help this problem by everyone visiting our site RIGHT NOW, CLICK HERE:

<https://www.southerntierorchids.org/>

If you don't get there, let me know, including which browser you use: Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Internet Explorer, etc.

Oh, and no wildflowers to be found, though it was a beautiful day to stroll the grounds. –Carol Bayles



Spring Auction is a BIG Success

The auction committee would like to express our appreciation to all who supported our Spring Auction. Financially we exceeded our initial expectations with the auction totals as follows:

Total Raised \$785
Auction Items: \$685
Donations: \$100
Costs: \$75.38 (auction fees and Paypal fees)
Net Profit: \$709.62

Our profit helps pay for activities, shows, speakers, programs, equipment, holiday plants, party supplies, etc., and is higher than we budgeted due to the generosity of our donors; Linda Mandeville, Paula and Luis Matienzo, John Zygmunt and Jo Shalkey. We thank them for their contributions resulting in zero plant costs!

We continue to receive some positive feedback from members that the auction went well. We sold all the donations. The timeframe was shorter and worked well. In the Fall we plan on having purchased plants, normally in flower, although many members liked the plants received from SVO after Fred's talk, not in flower, but very healthy. Hopefully the Fall Auction can be in person, at least for the final hour and pick-up during the meeting.

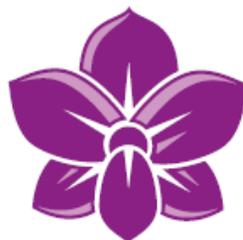
We would like additional feedback. E-mail us at STOSorchids@gmail.com. Let us know what variety and kind of plants you are interested in.

THANK YOU!!
The STOS AUCTION COMMITTEE
Pete, Jane and Carol

Member Updates

Lori Cabot is/has been in the hospital following a series of seizures. Please remember her in your prayers.

Bernice Magee is having health issues and was not able to attend the April meeting.



Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the STOS Membership Meeting on April 18, 2021

- The meeting was an internet meeting on ZOOM, due to the pandemic.
- Called to order by President Carol Bayles 2:08 pm
- 11 people in attendance.
- Approved minutes of the February meeting as printed in the newsletter.
- Treasure report Jane Trey: Paid the \$50 auction fee.
- AOS Rep Bernice Magee was not able to attend. There are still a few issues of ORCHID magazine available.
 - The Youtube video on the History of Unifoliate Cattleyas by Carol Klonowski is still available. A few people expressed interest in viewing it again but haven't yet.
- We had a discussion of Zoom vs live speakers next season when we meet in person. Having zoom speakers in the winter months was thought by many to be a good idea. Also suggested was having both live and zoom options for those who cannot attend. We also discussed inviting CNYOS members to attend our zoom meetings. There are a few people who are members of both Societies. We may want to pursue more coordination between the groups. All this will be considered and discussed later.
- Brief discussion of Gary Stensland, former member who died in a suspicious house fire. A few members had been in touch with him via Facebook in recent years.
- The possible potting party at the May meeting was discussed. Due to logistical problems, including lack of a demonstrator, location and interest, and variable weather, the idea was tabled. We will have another speaker instead.
- Anne Quain is willing to host our summer picnic at her house again in August. Final plans will be emailed to members.

Show table

Joe showed a nice Phal from Wegmans and talked about his other blooming orchids

Sharon showed a beautiful lavender Phal from the fall auction

John showed several plants: a yellow Phal that looked white to us, but he assured us that it is very yellow, a purple Vanda with about 5 blooms, and a very orange Cattleya which was ¼ of the original plant and still had many flowers, as bifoliate Catts tend to do. And last but not least, *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS, known as the Butterfly Orchid, with a flower the size of his hand. John didn't give the full name, but I looked it up and assumed it was this famous variety.

Luis showed his *Phragmepedium* Fritz Schomburg, (*besseae* x *kovachii*) which had an orange flower almost 6 inches across.

Jean showed a beautiful Phal (a gift purchased from Aldi), also *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*, the Deer Antlered Phalaenopsis, and a *Masdevallia ventricosa* that she received from John at a past meeting (raffle, I assume) in it's first bloom.

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Meeting Minutes -- continued

Minutes from the STOS Membership Meeting on April 18, 2021, *continued*

Jane showed us some orchids that are in the raffle and are in bloom:

Dendrobium Spring Smile, Lovely Paradise #36

Dend. Love Memory 'Fizz' #35

Stenorrhynchos speciosum, #04

Carol showed her Cattleya 'Jose Marti' a large, fragrant Catt that blooms every year at this time, it has 3 blooms and another bud to open later.

John also showed us *Stellis hirtella*, a mini with tiny flowers having a red center and the Bulbophyllum 'Daisy Chain' similar to the one in the auction.

We also discussed why jewel orchids, including the ones in the auction, lose their lower leaves and get leggy. Possible reason was insufficient light (although they do not need a lot of light). Solutions were to cut and reroot, lay the stem on the media and allow to root before cutting, train the stem to curl around in the pot and not climb out and away.

The rest of the meeting was taken up talking about the auction and Pete discussed every item in the auction with input from John.

We had a brief discussion about opening the auction to CNYOS, but they would have to drive down to get their plants, and they do have their own auctions.

Meeting ended about 3:30.

Minutes submitted by Carol Bayles

Open STOS Positions:

Meeting Program Coordinator – Choose and contact speakers for meetings. A list of past STOS speakers and an AOS list of possible speakers is available.

Newsletter Editor –Responsible for requisitioning content and producing and emailing a monthly newsletter from September through May. Adding content optional.

Librarian –Responsible for handling checkout and return of books by members at monthly meetings, and organization and promotion of books. May also purchase books or other materials.

Board Member at Large, along with the officers and other Coordinators and Committee members, will be the counseling and advisory Board for the Society. Attend EB meetings and vote on issues.

Cattleya History

by Art Chadwick, from the Chadwick blog, June 2010

In 1945 at the September meeting of the Trustees of the American Orchid Society, Clint McDade of Rivermont Orchids exhibited five plants of a new white cattleya hybrid called Bow Bells that had such outstanding flowers that one was awarded a First Class Certificate and the whole group received a rare Silver Medal of Excellence from the American Orchid Society. Amazingly, four of the five plants were seedlings flowering for the first time.

The next appearance of C. Bow Bells was at the 1948 Miami Orchid Show where two more plants received First Class Certificates from the American Orchid Society. Such awards were unprecedented, and in one brief moment in the long history of cattleyas, this fragile flower had revolutionized the quality of white cattleya hybrids. C. Bow Bells would go on to become one of the most awarded hybrids in orchid history.

Cattleya Bow Bells was a product of the breeding program of the British orchid company Black & Flory who gave it its name and registered it with the Royal Horticultural Society in April 1945. Black & Flory was known for breeding fine cattleya hybrids and Clint McDade had purchased a large number of C. Bow Bells seedlings before any of them had flowered. When they began blooming in his greenhouses on Signal Mountain, Tennessee, he found he was sitting on a gold mine. McDade later described C. Bow Bells “the flowers have all the desirable qualities of a fine orchid, with wide petals and sepals having good form and carriage and the large wide lip has a ruffled edge.” The plant itself is noted for its vigor and consequently is less difficult than most plants to grow. After giving 49 awards, including 18 Awards of Merit and 5 First Class Certificates to the first plants exhibited, AOS judges decided there was no virtue in giving additional awards to C. Bow Bells. They were all too good.

C. Bow Bells was a simple cross. It was just a primary hybrid, Cattleya Suzanne Hye, crossed on a secondary hybrid, Cattleya Edithae. The C. Edithae was the famous clone ‘White Empress’ which received a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society in England in 1914. C. Edithae ‘White Empress’ had been used extensively in breeding white cattleyas over the years but with only fair results. The C. Suzanne Hye, however, was simply the finest white cattleya Black & Flory had ever seen and it is the C. Suzanne Hye that is credited with making C. Bow Bells so outstanding.

C. Bow Bells was named for the bells of St. Mary-Le-Bow – a legendary church in London, where it was said that you were not a true cockney or Londoner unless you were born within the sound of its bells. The church was badly damaged by Hitler’s bombers during WWII and was still in need of repair when Black & Flory named their cross, perhaps to help with the effort to raise money to rebuild the church.

The magnificent parent of C. Bow Bells, C. Suzanne Hye, was lost forever during the war. In order to save the plant from a German attack on London, Black & Flory took the unusual step of packing up the plant and shipping it to safety in the United States. However, the boat on which it was traveling to America was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank. No one could ever remake the fine original C. Bow Bells again.

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Cattleya History - continued

C. Bow Bells was primarily a fall-flowering hybrid, missing the biggest season for white cattleya cut flowers, which was in the spring with Easter, Mother's Day and June Weddings. Merritt Huntington at Kensington Orchids in Washington, D.C. crossed C. Bow Bells with a spring-flowering large-flowered cattleya species, *Cattleya mossiae alba* 'Wagneri'. The results were phenomenal! Not only did the cross flower in the spring, but some plants had even better shape than their parent, C. Bow Bells. McDade named the cross Cattleya Bob Betts, for his excellent grower at Rivermont and registered the plant in 1950. C. Bob Betts became the most awarded white cattleya in history with 66 AOS awards – even more than its parent C. Bow Bells.

Of course, growers everywhere tried to remake C. Bob Betts, using every fine variety of *C. mossiae alba* available. Alba varieties of *C. mossiae* have notoriously poor shape and all the remakes of C. Bob Betts were painfully inferior to McDade's original cross. Speculation was rampant for years as to just what plant McDade actually crossed with C. Bow Bells to make C. Bob Betts.

Other growers broke new ground by crossing C. Bow Bells with every good white cattleya in sight and the bells rang out for years with new hybrids. There were C. Princess Bells, C. Empress Bells, C. Angel Bells, C. Sleigh Bells, C. Laura Bells, C. Vesper Bells, C. Signal Bells, C. Tiffin Bells, C. Tribells, C. Gaston Bells, Bc Heaton Bells, Lc Margaret Bells and the list went on and on. Many C. Bow Bells progeny are nearly as good, however the two originals, C. Bow Bells and its first born, C. Bob Betts, are still hard to beat and are often better than the multitude of white hybrids that came after them.

C. gaskelliana alba x *C. mossiae alba* = C. Suzanne Hye

C. Suzanne Hye x *C. trianaei alba* = C. Edithae 'White Empress'

C. Edithae x C. Suzanne Hye = C. Bow Bells 1945

C. Bow Bells x *C. mossiae alba* 'Wagneri' = Bob Betts 1950

C. Bob Betts x C. Bow Bells = C Jose Marti 'Mother's Favorite' CMM/AOS 1959



Cattleya Jose Marti 'Mother's Favorite' CCM/AOS was originated by Fields Orchids in 1959; it is a cross of C. Bob Betts x C. Bow Bells.

My mother-in-law had a small greenhouse full of orchids and after she passed away in 2006 her gardener chose this wonderfully fragrant orchid and a few others for me to remember her by. All the others have died, but Jose (that is all the tag said) blooms in April every year for me. – Carol Bayles

A slightly longer version of the Cattleya story is here

<https://chadwickorchids.com/content/bow-bells-revolution>

Show Table



Paph. Laevigatum x *Paph. Rothschildianum* - a nice multifloral Paph. – John Zygmunt



Dendrobium Ueang Pheng- a hybrid, likes bright light, cool to warm, orange color, a nice little *Dendrobium*. – John Zygmunt



Bulbophyllum Daisy Chain- easy to grow, likes dappled light, hot humid weather, a hybrid. I put one in the auction. It should be blooming as it's brothers and sisters are starting to bloom. – John Zygmunt



Paphiopedilum druryi is a somewhat rare species native to the Indian subcontinent. It is thought to be extinct in nature, but fairly easy to grow in cultivation. They often throw multiple leads, forming impressive specimen plants. This is its first bloom for Jim Rowley.

Pete O'Connell - Outside at Key West

May 2021

Mom

This month one of orchids that I received an AOS Award for in 2008 at our show is blooming. *C. Minerva* 'Soini' JC/AOS. I named it for my Mom who was in her 94 at the time and still growing orchids in her kitchen window. The Judges' Commendation (JC) is given for distinctive characteristics that at least 75% of the judges on a team feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways. In this case for "outstanding color contrast".

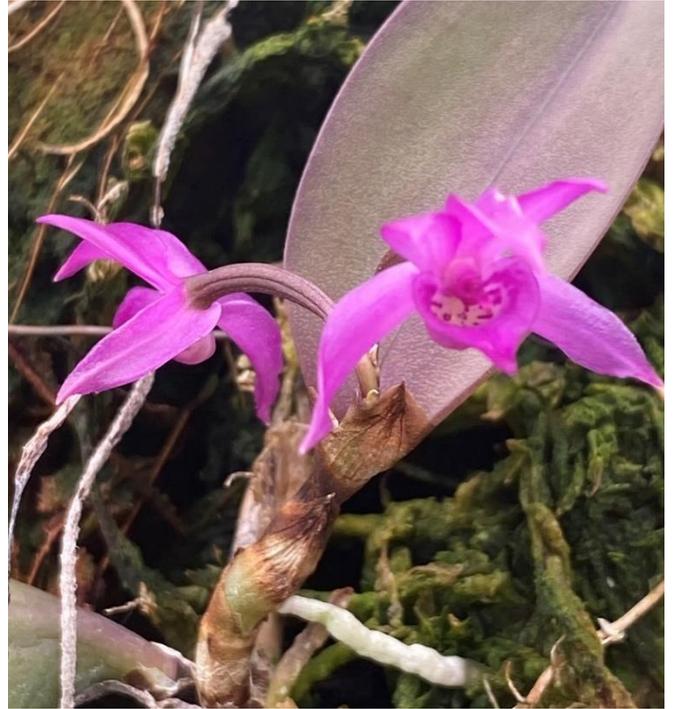
I found this orchid at Santa Barbara Orchid Estates in December of 2005 on a business trip in the area. It was one of a large group of seedlings from this cross and had just opened. It was stunning there and had to talk my way into them selling it to me for \$35. As you can see, it blooms irregularly. December in California when I bought it. It had just opened under lights in the basement for the 2008 show in mid-April. Last year it was out in June. Two years ago, I missed it as it bloomed over Memorial Day, and this year it is out at the end of April. It is a little less brilliant when I grow it outside in bright sun here than it was under lights in the cool basement. In fact, I brought it back to the show in 2009, and it was not as colorful that year either. Perhaps it had just been open longer.

As with a lot of named crosses in the cattleya group, its species name has changed. When first purchased, it was *Laelia Minerva*; when exhibited, *Sophronitis Minerva*. Now it is *Cattleya Minerva*. Since there was already a *C. Minerva*, it carries the year (1903) at the end. It is a cross of the (now) *C. Latona* (*C. cinnabarina* x *C. purpurata*) by now *C. tenebrosa*. Both *tenebrosa* and *purpurata* contribute to the purple lip.



Pete O'Connell - Outside at Key West

Mom grew miniatures in her kitchen window. Several months ago I showed you the *C.cernua* (below, orange) that she had for many years and this month one other miniature that came from her bloomed. *Meiracyllium trinasutum* is a hot growing creeping orchid from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. The flowers are short-lived, but plentiful and it has a wonderful cinnamon scent, especially in the morning. I think she originally received it from Luis.



Meiracyllium trinasutum.



Cattleya cernua

Pete O'Connell - Outside at Key West

As many of you know, I have been collecting fragrant Phalaenopsis for many years. It started many years ago with *P. violacea* which I got at Parkside and has long since gone to orchid heaven. It had wonderfully fragrant flowers, and I have been discovering many Phal species with fragrance as well as the wonderful hybrids. I showed many last month and this month the following fragrant Phals and related genera are flowering:



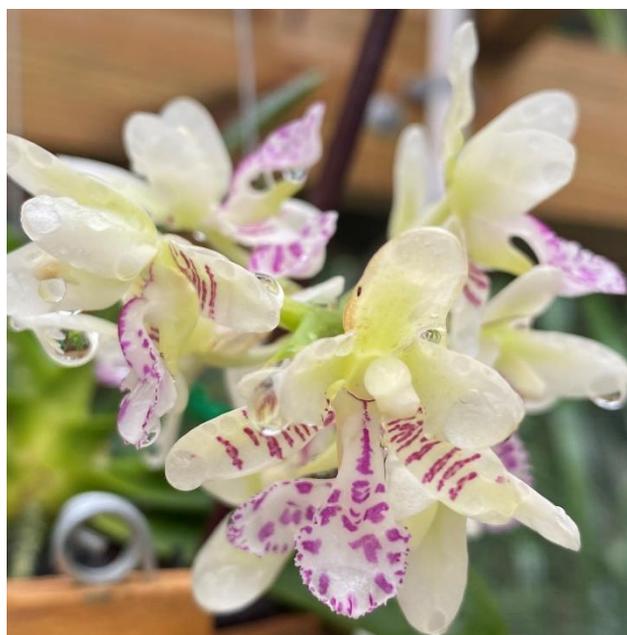
Phal Guadalupe Pineada
(*Phal. ambonensis flava* x *Phal. bellina alba*)
Very fragrant



Phal Montclair Sunset - Fragrant
Blue Ridge Blood x Dragon Tree Eagle
'DT=168' AM/AOS



Phal Yin's Black Eagle - Fragrant

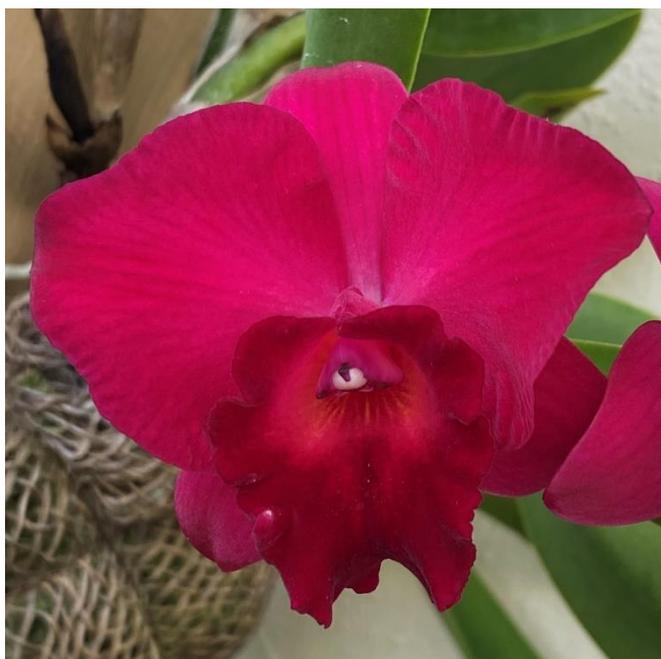


Sedirea japonica - Fragrant

Others in Flower



Blc. Anan Green Mutant x Rlc. Lawless
Zauberflot 'Rainbow'
From the potting session 2018
Just opened, the lip did flatten out.



Pot. Mem Irene Feil 'Ruby Red AM/AOS x Pot.
Lebenkries 'Diamond Orchids'
From SVO last Fall

And flowers from others



Phal from Fall auction—William O'Connell (Pete's brother)