

Southern Tier Orchid Society

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October 2017

NEXT MEETINGS:

October 15, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

November 19, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

IN THIS ISSUE

CNYOS Orchid Show - STOS won the Best Display!

Meeting NOTES

October meeting will be held upstairs at the church.

Meeting location:

First United Methodist Church 53 McKinley Ave. Endicott, NY 13760

EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the $5^{\rm th}$ day of each month to the editor.

If you have difficulties with the electronic format of this newsletter, please contact the webmaster at: southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com

President's Message

Hello, everyone!

I hope this gentle autumn finds you all well. The summer is holding on admirably. I'm amazed at every extra night I can leave my plants out to enjoy nature.

Thank you to everyone for their work at the auction, it's always a pleasure to see troves of new orchids. I feel like the proverbial kid in a candy shop at the sight of all those colors and foliage. We battled some very fine weather for attendance, but the auction was a success, as always. Thank you again to Pete, for his continued excellent auctioneer and organizational skills.

Congratulations are in order for Jane, who won Best Display at the CNYOS show! Way to represent, Jane!

I'm looking forward to a winter peppered with knowledgeable talks, good company, and the chance at even more orchids. What a wonderful respite we're privileged with during the bare season. Here's to another year of the STOS!

Thanks!

-Jnx

Minutes for September

Jnx brought the meeting together at 1:45 pm. Reminder to sign the attendance sheet.

Treasurer's report:

Jane Trey reported we have \$9,183.00 in the treasury.

Old Business:

- John Zygmunt discussed the recent orchid show at the Mall. He questions if we should use the Mall again due to the closing of several stores.
- Vendors have also complained about the store closings.
- We might consider cutting the fees for the vendors.
- Need more people to do displays
- Considering doing repotting with a small display at the 2018 July Fest or the Spiedie Fest.
- Anne Quinn has checked with the mall for dates of a show and with the vendors. May 27/28 was a date that was suggested.
- Need housing for the judges.
- Possibly talk to Agway to have a display there also Tioga Downs.
- Jane Trey will go to the CNYOS to put up a display. Let Jane know if you are going. Linda Mandeville offered to go up on Sunday and do the tear-down.

New Business:

Pete O'Connell showed some new books that were donated to the library. They were sold to the members.

Auction was started at 2:15PM and ended at 3:45PM.

Jane reported that we spent \$1,475.00 for the plants. The plants cost \$805.00 so we made a profit of \$670.00

Respectfully submitted, Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that we currently have an account balance of \$9,183.

Monthly Show Table

Since we held our auction during our September meeting, we did not have a Show Table.

CNYOS (Syracuse) Orchid Show Results

The weekend of September 30-October 1 we participated in the Central New York Orchid Society (CNYOS) Orchid Show at the Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville.

Jane Trey traveled up Friday afternoon and set up a display. Dominick Ponzi, Colin Dimon, Jane Trey, and Linda Mandeville all donated flowering plants for our use in the display. Congratulations to Jane!! The STOS display came home with the trophy for the Best Display in Show!!!! Great job, Jane! We received many compliments on our display. (See the photo below!) Several of our flowering beauties also received ribbons from the judges. Dominick, Colin, and Linda and Jack Mandeville all traveled up on Sunday to do the tear-down and clean-up! Thank you, all! Overall, it was a very positive experience, and I encourage more members to participate next year. It's a beautiful location, and a very nice show, with displays from talented growers and fellow organizations!

Again—CONGRATULATIONS to Jane! Thank you for doing our beautiful display this year!



2017 STOS Display at CNYOS

October Meeting

John Sullivan had planned to do a program for us in October, but due to unforeseen circumstances, is unable to come. So, at this time, our program for the October meeting is to be announced. During our October meeting, we will need to elect a nominating committee. The duty of the nominating committee will be to present a slate of 2018 officers and Board members to present at the November meeting for December vote.

Orchid Nutrition for Winter

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months.

Overall Health

Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilizing, or stressed from lack of water is much more likely to be injured by any additional strain.

Orchids grown under less than ideal conditions are more likely to be a target for infection or infestation. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can

minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterize the winter growing area.

General Nutrition

Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of year, and your orchids' nutritional needs change accordingly. Orchid growers can take the following steps now to help prepare their collection for optimal health through the months ahead.

Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple of doses of blossom booster in October and November; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10.

Ideally, this change in fertilizer should start by mid-November and continue through the end of January. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in December and January in favor of plant protection, but it can help keep the plant healthier overall.

Some growers recommend using Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt (0-0-3), a liquid nutritional potassium-silicon supplement for plants. The product is supposed to improve heat and drought tolerance in orchids, as well as boosting their resistance to pests, disease and environmental stress.

Specific Genera

Seasonal nutritional needs differ among various orchid genera, and may diverge still further depending on local climatic conditions in disparate geographic regions. The following guidelines may require modification to accommodate individual growing conditions.

Cattleya: Watering and fertilizing frequency should be reduced, as the plants dry out more slowly in the cooler temperatures and shorter days.

Bud sheaths may yellow at this time of year as temperature fluctuations can cause water to condense inside the sheath. Should you notice condensation in the sheath, it should be opened or removed to allow the developing buds adequate air circulation and prevent bud blast caused by rots. Simply slit open the sheath and carefully peel it down toward the pseudobulb, exercising caution so as not to damage the delicate bud primordia within.

Dendrobium: Autumn and winter needs vary according to the species or hybrid parentage in this diverse genus. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* hybrids will benefit from a fertilizer with a low nitrogen formula for optimal flowering.

The leaves of *Dendrobium nobile* types and their hybrids begin to yellow and drop at this time of year in preparation for their winter dormancy. Plants should be given plenty of light and good air circulation and kept dry from November through February. Mist occasionally if their canes become overly shriveled.

Paphiopedilum: Generally, these do not require a great deal of fertilizer. This is especially important with the cooler-growing bulldog types to reduce nitrogen levels at this time of year for best flowering. (Bulldog Paphiopedilums have plain green leaves as opposed to the mottled-leaf types. One of the best-known bulldog-type hybrids is *Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill.) Watch for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath or for late-season warm spells, as either can rot the sheath and destroy the developing inflorescence. While Paphiopedilums should not be allowed to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced in the cooler days. Overwatering can cause root rot or Erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis: Growth slows and inflorescences begin to appear. Reduce watering and fertilizing frequency, and apply a bloom-boosting fertilizer. Many growers also recommend applications of epsom

salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming. Once buds are evident on the inflorescences, keep temperatures and humidity consistent to prevent bud drop. Phalaenopsis grown in the greenhouse are especially prone to bud blast in February and early March, when the heat is still coming on at night and the greenhouse temperatures rise during the day.

Vanda: Aside from Neofinetia falcata, vandaceous orchids generally do not tolerate autumn and winter's cooler temperatures (below 60° F [16° C]) well and need to be carefully protected from chills. Vandaceous orchids still need as much light as possible as the days become shorter and light levels fall. Reduce the frequency of fertilizing and watering to accommodate the slower growth period they are entering. Starting the first week of October, Julie Rosenberg at R.F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida, recommends feeding vandaceous genera a blossom booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for four to six weeks, at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water (15 ml to 3.8 l), with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1 teaspoon per gallon (15 ml to 3.8 l), substituting bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can mean happier, healthier and more productive plants year round.

By Susan Jones Reprinted from *Orchids* -- The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Copyright American Orchid Society -- www.aos.org

Upcoming Meetings

October 15 ~ To be announced November 19 ~ Isabel Lopatin December 17 ~ Annual Holiday Party January 21 ~ To be announced

Please remember that these are tentative and subject to last minute change.