

Southern Tier Orchid Society

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November 2017

NEXT MEETINGS:

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

December 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott – Holiday Party

IN THIS ISSUE

 Don't miss our November meeting! Isabel Lopatin will be our speaker this month!!

Meeting NOTES

November 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^{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

Minutes for October

Jnx brought the meeting together at 2:05 pm. Reminder again to sign the attendance sheet.

Meeting notes for September were approved by the members.

Treasurer's Report

• JaneTrey reported we have \$9,788.00 in the treasury.

Old Business

- John reported, per Anne Quain, that 2 vendors have accepted to be at next years' show. We still need someone to house them for the show.
- A discussion was held regarding a different place for having the show. The July Fest was considered. Jnx said she would set up a booth there.
- Other suggestions for the show were Roberson, Farmers Market and Nanticoke Gardens.

New Business

- Congratulations went out to those that won awards at the CNYOS.
- Bob Rudin donated orchids for auction. A mini Dutch auction will be held and the money is to go the society.
- We have a speaker for the November. Both vendors have agreed to speak at meetings.

Show Table

- Jane Trey showed her 3 orchids that won awards at the CNYOS.
- Linda Mandeville showed a beautiful orchid with a fragrance.
- John Zygmunt showed 2 miniatures and 1 on a plank

After the break an auction was held. The mini Dutch was then held for the orchids that Bob had donated.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that we currently have an account balance of \$9,788.

Monthly Show Table

The Show table listing was not available at the time of the Newsletter generation.



November Meeting

Isabel Lopatin, from the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society, will be our guest speaker for November!! Isabel will be doing a presentation on Dendrobiums. She will be bringing plants to sell during our meeting. We've had Isabel speak before, and her talks are always very interesting and informative! Please plan on attending our November meeting, and feel free to bring a friend!!

Also during our November meeting, we will need to determine candidates to serve as 2018 officers and Board members. Please lend your support, and help our society stay "in business"--consider running for an office in 2018.

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more

pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in Oncidium section crispum from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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Upcoming Meetings

November 19 ~ Isabel Lopatin December 17 ~ Annual Holiday Party January 21 ~ To be announced February 18 ~ To be announced

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