

# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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Show Chair
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Web Page

http://www.storchidsociety.com/

# May 2015

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

May 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church of Endicott

\*\*\* Annual Repotting Session!

\*\* June-August: Summer hiatus

## IN THIS ISSUE

• May 17th - Repotting Clinic!

\*\*Note: we will meet downstairs for the repotting, so please use the rear entrance!

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES



## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the  $5^{\text{th}}$  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 All!

\*\*THANK YOU, ALL\*\* for a GREAT SHOW at the Oakdale Mall!! Thanks to all those who helped -- from advertising, planning, set-up, creating our display, and Plant registration on Friday night; clerking, breakfast and lunch coordination, and hosting judges/vendors on Saturday, and clean up on Sunday afternoon! (I think that was one of the quickest tear-down/clean-up ever!!)

Everything ran very smoothly and efficiently this year; I sincerely appreciate all your hard work and effort, and willingness to pitch in wherever needed!

I also wish to thank you all for bringing in so many of your beautiful, blooming orchids for our display! Congratulations to all of you who went home with ribbons---and there were many!!

I am pleased to report that we signed up 9 new members at the show!!!

Our May meeting (May 17<sup>th</sup>) will be our traditional reporting clinic. If you have an overgrown plant that needs dividing, you are welcome to bring it in. It will be divided and reported (and typically, the choice division goes home with the owner, while the other divisions will be auctioned/raffled off to the membership.) (Remember, the purpose of the reporting clinic is not to report your orchids at the clubs' expense, but to show you how to do it!) The club will provide media for demonstrating purposes and for reporting club purchased seedlings.

Members are also reminded that May is the deadline for paying your dues. Members who have not paid by May 1 will be removed from the members list and will not receive the newsletter. Of course, we would always welcome past members back.

See you all on May 17th! (Remember—we'll be meeting downstairs this month for the repotting session—so remember to use the back entrance!)

Respectfully, Linda Mandeville STOS President

## Minutes for April 19, 2015

Linda Mandeville, President, called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

First order of business was the approval of last months' minutes which were approved and seconded by the membership.

Jane Trey, Treasurer, gave the report of the STOS financial status which is \$8,247.00.

Anne Quain, Show Chair, discussed highlights of the Orchid Show:

Friday 5/1 - will be the day to set up at the Center Court. Saturday 5/2 - 10AM - Judges will be judging the orchids. Sunday 5/3 - 4PM raffle; 5PM Take down and clean up the area.

Members were told they could order orchids from Parkside and Kirsten would bring them to the show. No shipping charges.

Pete O'Connell explained duties:

Clerking - Help find the plant and can give an opinion.

Registration of plants must be completed by Thursday 4/30. Register on line

We will also have an empty storefront, with tables and chairs for registration, luncheons and storage.

Luis Matienzo discussed the judging by the American Orchid Society. There will be different types of awards. Some awards for STOS could go to National Awards.

Old Business - Linda thanked Bill O'Connell for preparing the orchid reference sheet (with assistance from Luis). It was emailed to members, and copies are also available here at the meeting.

New Information - The CNYOS will be having an orchid auction and picnic June7th @ 2:00PM at Baldwinsville, NY. All are welcome!

Show Table - Bernice Magee, Bob Rudin, Bill O'Connell and Carol Vargason favored us with their beautiful orchids.

The Aucton was then held. Most of the orchids were sold. There was some very interesting bidding.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey, Treasurer, reported that we had a balance of \$8,247.00.

## April Show Table

#### Carol Vargason:

1) Vanda Cherry Blossom 'Carmela'

## **Robert Rudin:**

1) Guarianthe aurantiaca

#### **Bernice Magee:**

1) Gastrophaius (syn. Phaius) Lady Ramona Harris (Phaius Gravesiae x Gastrorchis pulchra var. perrieri)

#### William O'Connell:

- 1) Phalaenopsis Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS
- 2) Paphiopedilum Supersuk 'Eureka' AM/AOS x Raisin Pie 'Hsinying x sib) Unregistered cross
- 3) Paphiopedilum Jacqueline's Moon

Changes in taxonomy, as well as difficulties with spelling, necessitate that authorities in the study of orchids be consulted. Hence names of hybrids – those which are not of Greek or Latin derivation, such as Lady Ramona Harris – have been checked against the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registry. It is not the hybrid name that changes, but the genus.

On the other hand, names of species - those which are completely of Greek or Latin origin -- have been searched in the Kew World Checklist of Monocotyledons. Parts of plant names appearing in boldface represent corrections in spelling or additional information found in these databases that may be of interest to the grower.

Luis J. Matienzo

## Welcome, New Members!

The STOS would like to send out a special "welcome" to our New Members who signed up at our 2015 STOS Orchid Show! We welcome you all to our orchid-loving family:

- Hannah Spring VanArsdale
- · Renee Albaugh
- Veronica Kalashnik
- Mary K Jennison
- Patricia Cummings
- Becky Jennison
- Chelsea Jacobs
- Deb Denman
- Ernie Jason

## May 17th Meeting—Repotting!!!

Be sure to attend the May 17th meeting for our mid-year auction! Feel free to bring a friend or two!!! We will be meeting <u>downstairs</u>, so please park in the church back parking lot, and use the back door.

## **Potting Up Plants**

There are two general growth habits among orchids - sympodial and monopodial - and how you repot them differs a bit.

Sympodial plants - cattleyas, dendrobiums, etc. - grow on a rhizome, with each plant maturing and blooming individually. Those that are currently on the plant that have already bloomed will generally not do so again, although there are some exceptions, most notably in dendrobiums. The time to repot is after blooming, when new growth has begun and you can see the "nubs" of new roots forming. In the case of

monopodial plants like phalaenopsis or vanda, which only have a single growth that will bloom again and again, look for the emergence of new leaves and roots as your signal.

If the older growths of sympodial plants - those on the opposite end of the "chain" from where it is blooming - are old and very shriveled, it is safe to cut the rhizome and throw them away. The older pseudobulbs do serve as "storage tanks" for the rest of the plant, and still provide some photosynthesis, and this is true even if they have lost their leaves. If they are too far gone however, they may be removed.

If the plant is large, with six or more pseudobulbs with leaves, you might consider dividing it into two clumps, and the old "back bulbs" might sprout new growth, giving you another plant to enjoy or share. Never reduce the plant to less than three bulbs plus a new growth.

- 1) Water the plant well, wait 30 minutes and water it again. That softens to root mass and old medium. If the plant is already in Semi-Hydroponic culture using an inert medium like PrimeAgra, this may not be needed at all.
- 2) Remove the pot. If it's clay, give it a few good whacks and break it up. It's easier to pick of chards than to slide the plant out of the pot. If the plant is currently in Semi-Hydroponics, it will easily slide from the pot with minimal coaxing.
- 3) Remove as much of the old medium as you can, being careful to pry it away from the roots without breaking them. Don't worry too much of you do break them, just try to keep it to a minimum, and if you do break them, cut them off at the break. (I will sometimes trim roots of a healthy plant on reporting, as it tends to cause root branching, which helps get it reestablished.) If the plant is in Semi-Hydroponic culture, it is not necessary to remove the attached medium, as it cannot decompose.
- 4) Using a clean sterile blade or scissors, cut off any rotted or rotting roots. Good ones will be thick, firm, and white or green, although they could be discolored by the medium. Bad ones will be black or brown, soft and mushy, or if the velamen has already completely deteriorated, they'll appear only as a central "string." Try to untangle the roots as much as possible.
- 5) Once the cleaning and trimming is done, I find it useful to dust the root system liberally with cinnamon, which acts to dry the wounds and is a marvelous fungicide. The same is true of places where you cut the rhizome.
- 6) The pot you use should have room for 2-years' growth, which you can estimate from the plant size. If the plant has 1" between pseudobulbs, and you have four bulbs with a total length of about 3 inches or so, then a five- or six-inch pot will do. Try not to overpot, as that can sometimes delay the reestablishment of the plant. For monopodial plants, select a pot that is about one- to two inches in diameter smaller than the total leaf span of the plant. (For some reason, overpotting does not appear to be as much of an issue with Semi-Hydroponics, but it still pays to stay within those guidelines.)
- 7) If you are using a traditional bark-based medium (even if that "bark" is coconut husk chips), place some crockery in the bottom of the pot for drainage. Those chards of the broken flower pot will work great. If you are using sphagnum, that is also a good idea, but if you're going into Semi-Hydroponics, do not add any filler to the bottom of the pot.

- 8) Presoak your medium. For bark, submerge it in hot water and let it stand overnight. I pre-moisten moss with hot water, and then wait until it cools before use. Moss must be damp, but not sopping. PrimeAgra gets soaked overnight as well, although hot water is not necessary. In all cases, I add one tablespoon per gallon of Dyna-Gro K-L-N and ten drops of SuperThrive per gallon of the soaking/wetting solution to spur on root growth.
- 9a) For sympodial plants going into bark, place and tamp down a mound of medium to the side of the pot, so it's deep at the side and shallow toward the middle. Place the "back end" of the plant right up against the side of the pot on top of the medium, with the newest growth toward the center of the pot. Add more medium to the pot, being certain to fill the spaces in-, around- and between the roots, tamping gently as you do. Continue adding medium until the rhizome is sitting right on top of it.

For monopodial plants, center a mound of medium in the pot, making it tall enough that the plant can be placed right on top of it. "Fan" the roots down and around the mound, and add and tamp medium until it's level.

Water the plant thoroughly, and let it drain. If you added stuff like K-L-N to your presoaking solution, use that for this initial watering.

- 9b) If using sphagnum, I prefer to fill the spaces between- and surround the roots before putting it in the pot, keeping the same up-against-the-wall or centered positioning, as appropriate for the plant. Make the whole "ball" about the size of the pot, and then stuff it in. The moss should be packed firmly enough to provide support, but not so tightly that it restricts air flow to the roots. Assuming you moistened the moss adequately, no "watering-in" is needed.
- 9c) If you are moving into Semi-Hydroponics, hold the plant in position and pour medium into the pot, shaking it gently to move the particles of the medium in between the roots. Keep adding until full. Fill the pot with water and let it drain, leaving the reservoir full.
- 10) Place the newly-repotted plant in "mild" conditions shady, humid, and warm and do not water it again until you see that the new roots are taking hold. Sometimes it is a good idea to place a plastic bag over the plant and pot to simulate a mini-greenhouse, if you feel that it will be difficult to provide the right conditions otherwise. If you prepared your medium correctly, and the plant is in a proper location, watering should not be needed for a few weeks, by which time your plant should be established and ready to go back to its normal growing conditions. If the medium does dry out in the interim, water sparingly, dampening, but not soaking the medium.

Courtesy of First Ray Orchids

## Upcoming Meetings

May 17 ~ Re-potting Clinic

June-August ~ Summer hiatus

September 20 ~ Annual Auction