

# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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http://www.storchidsociety.com/

# February 2018 NEXT MEETINGS:

February 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
\*\*1:00 Show Committee meet prior to 2/18/18 regular
meeting! \*\*

March 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

# IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our February meeting! The Show Committee will meet at 1:00, followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids will be our special guest speaker!

# Meeting NOTES

\*\*Note: In the event of a weather emergency, please check your email the morning of the party! If nothing is received from STOS, the party is on. Likewise, those who receive the newsletter by regular mail will receive a call from one of us. If any questions, members may also call one of the Board Members.

# 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

February 2018

# President Message

I hope you and your orchids are surviving the long cold winter. Several of the challenges of orchid growing in the winter are light and humidity. With the dark days it's hard to get enough light through a window and it often requires supplemental light. Another problem is humidity. Cold temperatures make the humidity in our houses desert like. This can be helped with humidifiers, keeping our orchids watered, humidity trays, pans of pebbles with water in the bottom with orchids on the pebbles not touching the water, and for small orchids, terrariums or even a fish tank. As John Dunkelberger, one of our judges, says: there are 3 things orchids need: humidity, humidity, humidity!

This month, the clubs' officers and show coordinators have been busy preparing for the Show, as well as obtaining speakers for our meetings. I have signed and delivered the contract to the Mall and updated the Show Manual. Pete has been working to update the website. Carol has been working on speakers for our meetings and advertising for the Show, Linda will obtain the ribbons and plaques, Anne has been working to get judges and vendors, Jane has paid the bills and helped get the insurance certificate for the mall show. We would like to do more advertising this year, hopefully without more cost. We will need a lot of help at the show to make it successful. I hope more of you will set up displays. I also invite all members to come to the show committee meetings and give your ideas and input. I have always found sitting at the information table at the show and hearing and seeing the public's reaction enjoyable.

Finally, as you know, our Spring auction is coming in April. I scheduled it just before the show in hopes we could get some orchids in bloom for the show. Since the auctions are our main source of revenue, it is important to have everyone participate. In the last few years our profit has declined and this is a concern. Some members have asked if we could have some smaller orchids in the auction, perhaps miniatures. We are working on that. Perhaps a mixture of larger and smaller orchids would help. The members must realize that small in stature does not mean small in price. Miniatures often cost as much as their big "cousins", and may not be in bloom. I personally love miniatures for their variety, they often don't need a lot of light, and you can grow a lot in a small space.

John Zygmunt-President STOS 2018

# Minutes for January

STOS President, John Zygmunt, called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

John reported that we held an Executive Board and Show Committee meeting at 1:00, just prior to today's regular meeting. The 2018 Budget was discussed, as well as how plans were coming for our Show this April (to be held April 28th- April 29th at the Oakdale Mall, with set-up being Friday, April 27th).

#### Executive Board/Show Committee Report:

- Budget:
  - We had a loss of \$172 last year (2017); only spent \$500 on speaker fees; Bob Rudin donated many of his orchids for auction, which brought in a \$169 profit.
  - We're anticipating a loss of ~\$1100 this year; we need to be careful with our expenditures in order to stay on budget. John has thought of some ways that we can save money on

- food purchase for the show this year (e.g. ordering luncheon A' la Carte from Phil's Chicken house).
- Even though we typically lose money on the Show, we need to continue to sustain the Show,
   as that is the primary means that we attain new members
- Auctions are our main source of income; members suggested perhaps we get different kinds of plants (perhaps miniatures), since many members have limited space available
- John also pointed out that our membership is down significantly over past years. We need
  to sign up new members—that is our goal for this year. Jnx offered to start up a
  Membership committee. Anyone that is interested in joining, please let her know.

#### • Show Committee:

- We currently have one vendor confirmed (Wade). Krum Sotirov is also interested—we'll need to confirm with him
- Board approved lowering the vendor's fee for the Show from \$250 to \$150, as vendors
  are barely profitable, otherwise. Hard to attract vendors if they don't make any income.
- Show Coordinators were appointed:
  - Information Table Coordinator: Jane Trey
  - Storefront Coordinator: John Zygmunt
  - Registration: Pete O'Connell
  - STOS Display: All members
  - Art Coordinator: Geof Gould
  - Advertising Coordinator: Carol Bayles
  - STOS Ribbons/Plagues: Linda Mandeville
- We have 8 slots for displays; we discussed having member's set up their own displays. Club
  can do one 8-foot table; leave the other for members.
- Program Coordinator:
  - Carol Bayles reported that, at this point, we have Kim Feddersen coming in February,
     Wade in November, and Krum Sotirov perhaps for October.

#### Old Business:

Anyone interested in joining a Membership Committee to attract new members, please see Jnx.
 She would like to get a committee started so that we can tackle our goal of attracting new members.

#### New Business:

- John discussed the 2018 Budget and Show Committee results
- Jane Trey indicated that the Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring a Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower show in March (\$80), if anyone is interested.

#### Treasurer's Report:

• Jane reported that we currently have \$9381.00 in our STOS account.

#### Approval of Minutes:

• A motion was made and accepted to approve the December 2017 Meeting Minutes.

# Show Table:

- Members showed some of their flowering beauties.
- John Zygmunt brought in a few of his "cloud forest terrariums", which will be used in coordination with his talk today.

# Raffle and Refreshments:

 Before proceeding into our featured program, we broke for some delicious, light refreshments and conducted our member raffle. There were many wonderful items in the raffle this month; thanks to many of you members for so generously bringing in plants/items to raffle!

# Featured Presentation:

John Zgymunt treated us all to a very interesting and informative presentation entitled: "The Cloud Forest Ecosystem - A Life in the Clouds". It consisted of a powerpoint presentation with a narrative, photos, and 3 short videos picturing the cloud forests of Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Borneo.

John's interest in cloud forests came from his interest in growing orchid miniatures, and found out that many miniature orchids come from the cloud forests. To successfully grow these orchids, it was necessary for him to reproduce their cool, moist habitat.

John brought in his "Cloud Forest" terrariums, and showed how he used a domed seedling tray to grow these beautiful miniatures.

At the end of his presentation, John raffled off several miniature cloud-forest orchids! John did a wonderful job with his presentation... Thank you, John, for all your hard work and effort pulling this together! Very much appreciated by all! Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Mandeville, Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that we currently have an account balance of \$9,381.

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# February Featured Program

Our featured guest speaker for our February meeting will be Kim Feddersen, of Fair Orchids (see his website: http://www.fairorchids.com/). Kim's talk will be titled: "Culture of Lady Slipper Orchids, primarily Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium".

Per his website bio, Kim was genetically imprinted on all things botanical in his fathers' orchid/tropicals nursery. He elected not to go into the family business full time, but has always maintained his interest and a large collection of 'this and that'.

Kim has grown orchids since 1968, specializing in 'slippers' (primarily Paphiopedilum), with Paph fairrieanum, his favorite species, (smaller Vandaceous plants and a sprinkling of Cattleyas), Aussie Dendrobiums & Cymbidiums.

Kim will have some plants available for sale, but not Paphs, due to an unfortunate heating failure in his greenhouse.

# Reminder--Membership Dues

It's that time of year - membership renewal time! Annual membership dues of \$20.00 for 2018 is payable now. If you have not turned in your membership for 2018, please take this opportunity to do so. January 1st is the due date and dues need to be paid no later than May 31st.

# Monthly Checklist for March and April

# Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

# Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant loo healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

#### Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from Dendrobium kingianum and Dendrobium speciosum -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

#### Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of

psuedobulbs with each successive year.

# **Miltoniopsis**

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

#### <u>Paphiopedilum</u>

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do

not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

# **Phalaenopsis**

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



*Masdevallia* Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit' AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids. Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

# <u>Pleurothallids</u>

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

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# Upcoming Meetings

February 18 ~ Kim Feddersen - Paphs March 18 ~ Kim Fedderson April 15 ~ Spring Auction May 20 ~ Repotting Clinic

<u>Please remember that these are tentative and subject to last minute change.</u>