



March 2025

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

March Speaker: Clark Riley on “Building the 21st Century Hobby Greenhouse”

Clark’s first half century of growing was indoors, under lights. After 50 years of planning and 5 years of badgering all his greenhouse-owning friends, he finally made the leap to a greenhouse. His talk, “Building the 21st Century Hobby Greenhouse,” will illuminate why you may or may not want to make the leap yourself, costs involved, and tips on avoiding mistakes.

I will DEFININITELY be talking about costs, including heating and cooling!



Clark Riley has been an active orchid grower since 1957. At the age of six, he got his first plant, a probably-collected Yellow Ladyslipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) from a perennial nursery. The plant died a miserable death in a short time, but not before blooming and cementing a love of orchids that has lasted over half a century. He has labored ever since to make amends by promoting the sound cultivation of Ladyslippers. He grows a wide range of orchids, including several thousand terrestrials, hardy species, and ladyslippers, Brazilian Laelias, and specialty Phalaenopsis, often from seed. He was the producer for the book and CD of Proceeding of the North American Native Terrestrial Orchid Conference. He is a member of the Maryland Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society. He can be reached at DrRiley@aol.com or visit his web site at <http://cyps.us>.



Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

Ruth Allen

Treasurer

Joe Sniezek

Secretary

Chris Higgins

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

Jeff Hackett

Loi X Tran

Gail Gunsalus

Auction Committee Jane Trey, Jean Mint, Jeff Hackett

IT Specialist Melissa Bennett

Librarian Laurel Shaefer

Marketing TBD

Membership Melissa Bennett, Anitra Murphy

Newsletter Editor Jeff Hackett

Program Coordinator Jean Mint

Social Event Ruth Allen, Jane Trey

Social Media Loi Tran, Renee DePrato, Jean Mint

Show Chair Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

Web Master Carol Bayles

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

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STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com

Google Group (Listserv)

STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/SouthernTierOrchidSociety/>

STOS Calendar 2025

Meetings are 2-4 pm (1:30-2 is 'social time')
at the Johnson City Senior Center,
30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY 13790.

- Jan 19** General Meeting in Person
Speaker Ray Barkalow on Orchid Nutrition
- Feb 16** General Meeting
Speaker Tim Culbertson on Holcoglossums
- Mar 16** General Meeting
Spring Auction
1pm Speaker Clark Riley on Greenhouse Talk
- Apr 11** STOS Orchid Show;
Setup 2pm-7pm
- Apr 12** STOS Orchid Show;
STOS 7:30a, Judging 8a-11a, Public 11a-6p
- Apr 13** STOS Orchid Show
Public 10a-4:30p, Takedown 4:30p-6p
- May 18** General Meeting
Repotting Workshop
- June** Summer Recess
- July** Summer Recess
- Aug 17** Summer Picnic
- Sep 21** General Meeting
Fall Auction – In Person
- Oct 19** General Meeting
Officer Election
Speaker TBA
- Nov 16** General Meeting
Speaker TBA
- Dec 21** Holiday Party

**See Attached Auction Plant List!!
Auction will be held in person after
our speaker presentation!**

STOS Meeting Minutes

February 16th Meeting Notes

Meeting location: via Zoom, due to inclement weather

Time: 2:05 PM – 4:03 PM

Attendees: About seventeen members were present on Zoom.

Call to Order:

President Linda called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

Secretary's Report:

The February 16th, 2025, meeting notes by Secretary Chris Higgins, as published in the February 2025 *Newsletter*, were accepted, with one issue noted. Bernice Magee, stated that there was a typo in recognizing "Melissa Hance" as photo credit for the two paphiopedilum species included on the minutes page. Jeff Hackett, newsletter editor, made note that photo credit should have been to Melissa Bennett. It was further clarified that Melissa Hance is known better as Sam Hance in the society.

Treasurer Report:

Joe Sniezek discussed finances and expenses as of the end of January 2024. Expenses included expenditures for Zoom, liability insurance, a P.O. box, and the January speaker. The treasurer made the point that as an organization, we are at a crossroads this year; we may be spending more in order to increase membership. Annual expenses will include the rental expense for the Johnson City Senior Citizen's Center.

STOS will charge a \$5.00 entrance fee for the 2025 Show, and free admission for children under 12 and for senior citizen members of the Johnson City Senior Citizens Center. Volunteers will also be admitted free of charge. STOS members are free and can bring one friend or family member for free. We will not be giving senior citizens a discount on admission. The idea of charging admission for the 2025 show elicited some discussion. The treasurer conceded that it is a "risk item."

In further line-item discussion, the question of a printer arose. At the JC Senior Citizen's Center, we can copy material, but it's not clear whether or not we can print. Carol Bayles offered to donate a printer for a one-time use.

Concerning the question of charging admission to the STOS 2025 Show, Jeff made the point that orchid shows he attended have all charged admission. \$5.00 seemed a reasonable amount.

Jeff further pointed out that vendors are being charged a fee. As of now, STOS has three hard Yeses from vendors for the upcoming Show.

Meeting Discussion:

President Linda brought up the issue of time-sensitive areas that need to be changed in the STOS by-laws:

- President and treasurer should have joint access to bank and financial accounts
- Allow check, electronic, and digital credit cards
- Webmaster needs a volunteer back-up person, an "understudy" who has interest in this area and can take over should Carol be unavailable.
- "Show chair" should say "chair or co-chair."
- Move April meeting to April 27, after the Show; it will include a wrap-up of the Show

February 16th Meeting Notes cont.,

Further Discussion:

- Luis asked how long should a person be included on the mailing list after they have left. President Linda said she will speak to the Executive Board.
- President Linda conveyed that dues for members will increase in 2025-2026 from \$20 to \$25 and \$30 for families
- Luis asked what will a half-membership be. This matter needs to be resolved.
- President Linda brought up the issue of what to do with our library. Suggestions included put some of the books on the raffle table. Luis pointed out that some are very expensive first editions. Another suggestion was to put them up for auction. This matter needs further discussion.
- President Linda pointed out that STOS needs to put together a task group to work on the club's by-laws.
- The club also needs an archival system for its records
- President Linda also noted the EB's decision to change the club's annual meeting to November and the Holiday Party to December. End-of-year expenses could be reported in January.
- If any member has comments or questions, please email President Linda.

After a short break, Jean Mint introduced this month's speaker, via Zoom, Tim Culbertson of Oceanside, California, who gave a fascinating presentation, "Holcoglossums: The Next Great Thing in Vandas." His slides of Holcoglossum hybrids were gorgeous and the presentation wonderfully informative.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM



Phaius Lady Ramona Harris 'Looking At You' AM/AOS
Photo Courtesy of Carol Bayles

STOS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 16th Meeting Notes

Attendees:

President: Linda Mittel

Vice President: Ruth Allen

Treasurer: Joe Snizek

Secretary: Chris Higgins

AOS Representative: Polly Dillon

Past President: Carol Bayles

Members At Large: Jeff Hackett, Gail Gunsalus, & Loi Tran

Miscellaneous Attendees: Jean Mint & Joanna Higgins

Time: 11:35 AM – 1:07 PM

STOS BUDGET 2025 review by Joe Snizek, Treasurer, general questions and line items:

Add 2 line items for educational materials: expenses & revenues

Add line item for committee expenses

Add AOS Table items as a line item

Discussed 1.4% x the cost as a realistic profit (in contrast to 1.5% or 1.7%)

Potting Workshop discussed (as part of budget discussion)

Repotting Demonstration needs to be budgeted

Where do supplies come from?

Ask if members have any materials to share.

Clarify on poster that it is a demonstration and not a bring-your-own-plant to repot

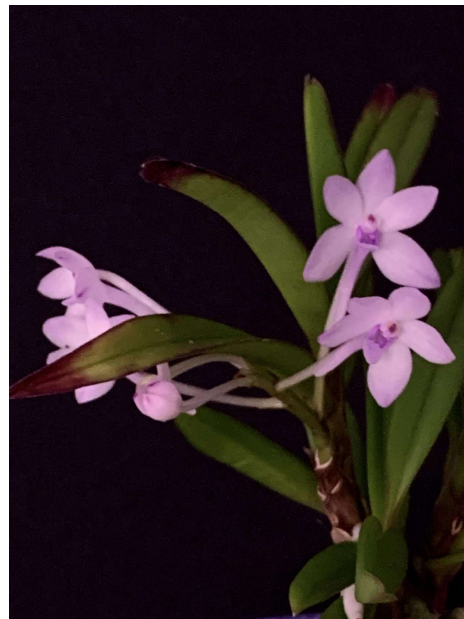
Sponsorships discussed; organizations and individuals, including members; sponsorships for the club or just the show?

Some recognition for sponsors, such as a sign would be good (but not a whole table); member sponsorships could be mentioned in show catalogue

Vendors: four vendors are interested



Phragmipedium caricinum
Photo Courtesy of Luis Matienzo



Vandochostylis Yuan Dung Godzilla
Photo Courtesy of Luis Matienzo

February 16th Meeting Notes cont.,

New Business:

Liability Insurance discussed

Changes to By-Laws

Outgoing officers go over protocol with incoming officers: EB voted **Yes**

President and Treasurer to have access to bank accounts: EB voted **Yes**

Have a mid-year balance sheet

Add electronic and digital payment methods: EB voted **Yes**

Have an understudy webmaster as a backup person: EB voted **Yes**

Substitute the word "Co-chair" for "Chairman" or Show Chair. EB voted **Yes**

Post show update on April 27th, 2025: EB voted **Yes**

Set up Task group for by-laws:

Write down responsibilities for new people who take positions

Record managing: Files and Folders go into a STOS archive

Dues increase in 2026: \$25/members; \$30/family to take effect 2025-2026: EB Voted **Yes**

Library Status Thoughts: What to do with our books and periodicals?

Donate some; consider auction; consider giveaways at membership table

Tabled matters:

One-year active membership in order to become an officer or co-chair

Should be in by-laws. EB can decide on exceptions. EB Voted **Yes**

Annual meeting in November & Holiday Party in December Voted On: **Yes**

Membership dues due in December. Voted on **Yes**

Need by-laws by November: set up working group; open to new members

EB meetings will meet quarterly Voted on: **Yes**

Executive Board Meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM

