



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

[www.geocities.com/orchidovation](http://www.geocities.com/orchidovation)

**NOVEMBER 2006**

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## **President's Message**

I send my regards to all of you from Lima, Peru, where I have been enjoying spring weather and the company, not only of my family here, but also other orchid enthusiasts. Further on in this newsletter you'll find a more detailed account of my observations about Peruvian orchid growers and even some special plants.

I'm looking forward to the next meeting at **2 p.m. on Sunday, November 19**, when Paul Sheetz, a recognized AOS-certified orchid judge and long-time friend of STOS, will be presenting a program on the primary hybrids of *Paph. rothschildianum*. His presentation will no doubt be of interest to both novices and experienced growers, so I hope that all of you are able to attend.. You will find a summary of his talk among the following articles.

We'd like to thank Dave Clemens and Pete O'Connell for setting up the STOS display at the Central New York Orchid Society show in Syracuse, and give special thanks to Ken Lattimore and Roxanne Shank, who had to miss our October meeting and program because teardown of exhibits fell on the same afternoon.

STOS needs the assistance of even more members to maintain the vitality of the club and its mission, especially in the writing, editing, production, and mailing of a monthly newsletter, our principal means of communicating with all of you. To distribute our news to you in a timely manner, we could use some additional help. Please get in touch with Roxanne Shank, our editor, Paula Matienzo or me: our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed here on the front page. Or you may speak to one of us at the next meeting, when I look forward to seeing you again..

Luis Matienzo, President

## October Meeting Minutes

Southern Tier Orchid Society  
of New York Minutes  
October 15, 2006

Meeting was opened by President, Luis Matienzo.

Treasurer's report was given by Paula Matienzo.

September Minutes were read by Secretary, LuAnn Myers.

The annual Holiday Party will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Vestal Public Library. Please bring a dish to pass with serving utensils if needed. Beverages, a deli tray, rolls, plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils will be provided. Also please bring an orchid to decorate the tables.

The Show Committee will be gearing up soon for the 2007 Show. Meeting dates to be announced. If you would like to help the committee, please contact Paula.

A Thank You goes out to all who helped with the Auction.

Our thoughts go out to our Web Master, Son K. Tran and family. His father recently passed away.

The Nominating Committee, Dave Clemens, Pat Lapierre, and Susan Ujszasli, are looking for new Officers and one Board Member. If you are interested or have someone you would like to nominate, please contact them. Elections will be at the December Meeting/Holiday Party.

We broke for refreshments and the raffle.

Dennis d'Alessandro from Pittsburg gave an excellent presentation on some of his many ventures in Ecuador and Bolivia.

Meeting was adjourned.

LuAnn Myers, Secretary.

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### STOS Treasurer's Report

October 15, 2006

By: Peter O'Connell

Total funds available are \$4275.21, plus CD of \$2000.

Income since the May meeting was \$2708 from the Auction. I have also received and not deposited \$15 dues and \$85 from the auction for a payment that came in the mail.

Expenses were Newsletter Postage of \$54.60, Newsletter Printing of \$30.32, plants for auction of \$584.40, and refreshments of \$14.63.

To date we have had income from the Auction of \$2708, and expenses of \$1579.40. We still have a lot of plants left and have sold some since September, which will be reported as the cash comes in.

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### October Show Table

Since most of our members entered their flowering plants in the CNYOS show, there were few orchids in attendance for our meeting. Those present (and their owners) were:

Gen Downs

Masd. rolfeana

Dick Lambertson

Brassada Orange Delight

Blc. Waikiki Gold x Blc. Fringe Benefits

## **A Look at November's Meeting**

**Date:** November 19, 2006 - 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Vestal Public Library

**Speaker:** Paul Sheetz

**Topic:** Primary hybrids of *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*. *Paph rothschildianum* has long been considered one of the most elegant of all orchids. We will look at the offspring of *Paph. rothschildianum* combined with other species.

**Note:** The Show Committee will meet at 1:00 before the regular meeting. Further information appears below.

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### **First Show Committee Meeting Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

With our annual orchid show less than six months away, it is time for us to combine our efforts in planning for our biggest event of the year. Both Oakdale Mall and the American Orchid Society have approved our show dates, with setup scheduled for Thursday, April 26, judging on Friday, April 27, and the show open to the public that afternoon through teardown on the afternoon of Sunday, April 29. We're pleased to report that the fine team of AOS judges who have shared their expertise for many years, as well as the five orchid vendors who sold at last year's show, are willing to return in 2007.

Members of last year's Show Committee and those of you who have already expressed interest in joining us for the first time will have received notification, primarily by e-mail, about the meeting on Sunday, November 19, at 1 P.M. by the time this newsletter reaches you. In this brief meeting, we will discuss some of the major deci-

sions we need to make over the next few months – for example, how many vendors we wish to have, what we should charge for table fees, how we can improve on our vendor contracts, and what our exhibit(s) will be. The purpose of this meeting is less to come to any decisions and more to familiarize everyone with some of the issues facing us.

Quite a few of you STOS members travel considerable distances for our meetings, so we have scheduled this show committee meeting at 1 p.m., an hour before our regular meeting on Nov.19. We're hopeful that this will cut down on your travel time and encourage you to participate in planning and organizing our 2007 show.

If you have any questions about this meeting or the show, please feel free to call or e-mail Paula Matienzo, whose home phone is (607)-754-5702 and e-mail address is [pmatienzo@stny.rr.com](mailto:pmatienzo@stny.rr.com) . We hope that you will join us.

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### **Silent Auction: The Sequel**

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Our Second Silent Auction has been listed on our Website for 3 weeks. There is still a chance to obtain wonderful orchids and benefit our club. Please look at the attachments and if you are interested, place a bid by getting in touch with Luis Matienzo or Pete O'Connell. The plants will be delivered at our next meeting on 11/19/06.

If you missed the opportunity of bidding on any of the plants we had during our auction in September (200+ items), you can still have a chance to bid on some wonderful plants that are under our care. A listing of the available plants is included with this Newsletter (as a separate attachment for e-

mail recipients), along with a suggested price that will cover the cost of plants, shipping and a small contribution to STOS funds. Our suggested starting bid prices are way below the prices for these plants at orchid shops. In many cases, some of the offered plants are new crosses, which are still without a specific hybrid name. This also offers you an opportunity to purchase possible award winners and if you wish, officially register a new hybrid.

### **The Rules of the Game:**

- Auction bidding closes on November 17, 2006.
- Should you have interest in purchasing any of the offered items, please send a bid for any item you choose to [lmatischenzo@stny.rr.com](mailto:lmatischenzo@stny.rr.com) or [Pete O'Connell@pall.com](mailto:Pete.O'Connell@pall.com). If you prefer, you can call us and place your bids.
- Please note that in case there is more than one bid on a plant, the highest bid will get the plant.
- The plants will be brought to the next meeting (November 19, 2006) and we will accept payments in either cash or personal checks.

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### **Refreshment Volunteers**

Following is the current list of refreshment volunteers. We suggest a buddy system where more than one person may sign up for an individual meeting so that the cost and work can be shared among members.

November – Pat Cotter &  
Donna Coleman

December – Holiday Party. Everyone  
brings a dish to share.

January – Susan Gal

February – *open*

March – Martha Birch

Please sign up at the next meeting for the open slot in February and/or to assist those who've already signed up.

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### **December Meeting**

Our December meeting, scheduled for December 17, is the annual holiday party. The party will once again be potluck style, with members asked to bring a dish to share.

Annual election of officers will also be conducted at this meeting.

Also, as per our bylaws, STOS dues are payable at the meeting in December. Delinquent memberships will have no vote in membership decisions. Memberships delinquent after May 1 will be dropped from the rolls, including newsletter and other mailings, until full annual membership is paid.

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### **CYNOS Show Winners**

Again this year, STOS entered an exhibit in the CNYOS Show in October. A list of prizes awarded to our club members follows:

Southern Tier Orchid Society

Exhibit

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 6

Dick Lambertson

C. Bob Betts

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Class 31

Slc. Marie Nohava Hollowed

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 32

Lc. Amber Glow 'Magnificent'

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 33

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Pot. Burana Beauty  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 33  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 38  
 Brs. *Caudate* 'J.E.M.'  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 108  
 Ken Lattimore  
 Paph. Chingachgook  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 44  
 Paph. Psyche  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 47  
 Phrag. *longifolium*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 52  
 Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 54  
 Andy Myers Memorial Award  
 Phal. Happy Girl  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 74  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Class 75  
 Dave Clemens  
 Dendrobium hybrid  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 132  
 Lyc. Elizabeth Powell  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 157  
 Pete O'Connell  
 Paph. Schaetzchen  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 44  
 Odc. Wildcat  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 103  
 Tolumnia  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Class 107  
 Den. Angel Smile  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Class 131  
 Masd. Keiko Komoda  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Class 178

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## A Hello from Lima, Peru

Dear STOS members,

Now that the weather is getting much colder up there in New York and Pennsylvania, I imagine that only few of our orchids (among them my cymbidiums) are still outdoors. Some of your other plants subjected to lower temperatures about a month or two ago may

be spiking or getting ready to do so. Here in the Southern Hemisphere spring has started, and everywhere I've visited there are many annuals, trees, perennials and some orchids flowering. Here on the coast of Peru orchids are known to flower on a regular or even a constant basis because of the temperate climate and beneficial evening breezes that carry mist off the Pacific Ocean. In fact, plants are typically grown outdoors, often on flat rooftops, and much less frequently are greenhouses required.

I have had a chance to talk with some other avid orchid enthusiasts -- friends who did graduate work in the United States and, upon returning to Peru, became university professors. We have discussed many issues about orchid culture and history as well, and they have shown me both their photographs and plants for purposes of identifying what is in their collections. These are basically species. In turn, I have shared information on orchids not often seen here, my own successes in growing and flowering some of these, and, yes, my failures in keeping some alive. After our discussions, I think that I have piqued our friends' curiosity about what STOS and orchid growers here are doing enough that they'll be checking our website on a regular basis for updates.

Despite limited time here, I have so far been able to visit one flower market, where a variety of plants were offered for sale. Among the orchids, I recognized *Anguloa uniflora*, *Cattleya maxima*, *Catasetum pentadactylum*, *Epidendrum radicans*, *Phragmipedium caudatum*, and *Odontoglossum macranthum*. But there were some epidendrum, maxillaria and masdesvallia species that I could not readily identify because they were not in flower. At a couple of stands, phalaenopsis hybrids (mericlones) were available. To my surprise, such hybrids were three to four times more

expensive than some full-size specimens of species. This illustrates that wherever orchid growers live they often seek what is very different and less common in their locales. It seems doubtful to me that *Phragmipedium kovachii*, native to Peru and highly prized among many North American growers, would have many takers here.

Between now and the time I return home on November 9, I'm hoping that I'll have a chance to see some other botanical wonders (especially orchids) so that I can share the news with you in the December issue of the newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on Sunday, November 19.

Luis Matienzo

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## Items of Interest

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### Brown Sheaths

Arthur Chadwick wrote: "[B]rown sheaths are not necessarily a problem. . . .C. skinneri . . . routinely produces brown sheaths. Many close descendants of this bifoliate species also carry this harmless gene.

In most other cases, however, the browning of bud sheaths is a gradual fungal infection caused by water accumulation at the base of the protective bud covering. High humidity coupled with a lack of air circulation or a late-day watering contributes to this problem.

Surprisingly, the delicate buds inside may be unaffected by the decaying surroundings and mature into... blossoms. On the other hand, the buds may succumb to the fungi, turn brown, and die. . . . [One] approach to saving the buds is to slice open the top of the brown sheath and gently pull down the sheathing fibers about half way. . . . air movement will likely

dry out the advancing fungi and allow the green buds to develop uninhibited.

Source:

[http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagina me=RTD/MGArticle/RTD\\_BasicArticle&%09s=1045855936376&c=MGArticle&cid=1149190878720&path=!flair!hg](http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagina me=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&%09s=1045855936376&c=MGArticle&cid=1149190878720&path=!flair!hg)

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### Postal Service Issues Wetlands Stamp

"Artist John D. Dawson illustrated the flora and fauna of the Everglades in his painting used on a stamp issued [October 4] by the U.S. Postal Service. The pane of 10 stamps features South Florida Wetlands.

[The] artist . . . portrays more than 20 different sorts of plants and animals in his painting, an imaginary scene. The scene includes . . . a cowhorn orchid."

Source:<http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061004/NEWS01/61004022>

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### Vanilla from Uganda

"Bob Murphy . . . executive at Pennsylvania-based Shank's Extracts, one of the . . . suppliers of vanilla to American households.

A few years ago, Uganda . . . emerged as . . . the world's highest-quality supplier of vanilla beans. Prices soared because of a crop failure in Madagascar, traditionally the vanilla king. Ugandans filled the breach, reaping large revenue increases from 2002 to 2004. At the peak of the boom in 2003, cured vanilla beans sold for about \$200 a pound, 20 times the historical rate.

More than 100,000 farmers in Uganda now grow vanilla, producing two crops a year to Madagascar's one. Almost all of those farmers tend plots of just an acre or less. . . . When the

beans appear, the farmers hire security guards to protect them from theft . . . Ugandan vanilla beans these days fetch \$12 to \$15 a pound"

Source:

[http://biz.yahoo.com/hbusn/061002/081706\\_8384353.html?v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/hbusn/061002/081706_8384353.html?v=1)

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### **Central American Orchid Bee**

"[A] male orchid bee from Central America . . . Euglossa viridissima . . . gathers . . . fragrances produced by species of Gongora, Stanhopea and Lycaste orchids and uses them in courtship. . . .

[The]male orchid bee lands on a flower and secretes lipids from glands around his mouth onto the flower petal to dissolve the fragrance compounds. He then uses special brushes on his front legs to mop them up. After lots of brushing and mopping, he hovers a few inches above the flower and transfers the compounds to special pouches in his hind legs. Then he goes back to mopping.

If a female orchid bee wanders into his territory, he places a touch of perfume on velvety pads on his middle legs, which he then fans to send the enticement in her direction."

In its native habitats in Mexico and Central America, male orchid bees are attracted primarily to specially blended fragrances concocted by orchids. . . . [Bob] Pemberton [a USDA entomologist in Fort Lauderdale] . . . worked with USDA chemist Gregory Wheeler on a paper published in August that spells out which aromatic compounds are collected by these . . . male bees in Florida. The scientists removed compounds from the leg pockets, and found 27 components of orchid perfumes. . . .

Source:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/living/home/15982210.htm>

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### **New Orchid Species Discovered**

"30 new species of orchid . . . [were recently] discovered . . . in previously unexplored tropical rainforests in the Papua New Guinea.

The species were uncovered in the Kikori region during a series of expeditions organised by the [World Wildlife Fund] as part of its efforts to catalogue the floral diversity of the area.

The island of New Guinea is a goldmine of orchids," said Wayne Harris, a botanist from Queensland Herbarium and one of the world's leading authorities on the subject.

There are more than 3,000 known species found here. The expeditions have added significantly to the known floral diversity. Papua New Guinea already has more recorded orchid species than any other country in the world."

Olo Gebia, an ecologist for WWF, said: 'Around 70 species of orchid that used to exist in the forests of neighbouring Indonesia have become extinct because of illegal logging. . . .'

Kikori, which includes Lake Kutubu, is internationally recognised for the diversity of its plant life and has been the focus of several zoological expeditions by the wildlife organisation since 1998. ...

The announcement comes just a week before the official launch of two new wildlife management areas in the region. They will help to protect the tropical rainforest areas where the orchids were discovered"

Source:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2405570,00.html>

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