



Southern Tier Orchid Society

www.geocities.com/orchidovation

JANUARY 2006

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President's Message

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Southern Tier Orchid Society's rebirth after some time of inactivity. It was at the end of 1985 that Ron McHatton, Jim Kie and I first met one another and decided to revive the club. Since then, the club has become known for its annual show. This display of plants, held at the end of April through the courtesy of Oakdale Mall, has attracted both orchid growers and the general public, and has become part of the calendar of events for this region. Through our affiliation with the American Orchid Society, we have been privileged to have an outstanding team of judges at our show.

On a month-to-month basis, however, our club relies entirely on volunteer effort. I would like to invite you to become more involved in making our organization very successful. At this time, we are in particular need of people to plan programs for the following year as well as those who can participate in the show. We welcome your participation, regardless of your knowledge of orchids.

At this month's meeting, we would like to welcome Kenneth Hull, our featured speaker on the topic of photographing orchids in the wild. *As a reminder, in the event of inclement weather, this presentation will be made on Sunday, February 19, 2006.* A summary description of the presentation is attached below.

Please remember that 2006 membership dues are now payable. Payment information can be found later in the newsletter.

I look forward to a Happy New Year of working with all of you.

Luis Matienzo, President

December Meeting Minutes

The December 2005 meeting was called to order by President, Paul Crumb. A treasurer's report was not given.

The following slate of candidates for office for the year 2006 was presented and elected unanimously by the members:

President: Luis Matienzo
Vice President: Ann Tinker
Secretary: LuAnn Myers
Treasurer: Peter O'Connell

An exception to the bylaws allowing LuAnn to serve as secretary for another term was approved by members in attendance. Two Executive Board positions were also voted on. Peter O'Connell's term on the board has expired and another seat was vacated by Luis' becoming an officer. These openings will be filled by Ellen O'Malley and John Zygmunt, whom members also elected unanimously.

Paula Matienzo, Show Chair, announced that the first meeting of the 2006 Show Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at 7:15 in the small room at the Vestal Public Library. She invited the Committee members and anyone else interested in helping with the show to attend. In particular, Paula has requested help with plant entry and record-keeping during the show and is seeking volunteers with some computer skills to be involved with this important aspect of the show. Please contact Paula at home by phone at (607)-754-5702 or by e-mail at pmatienzo@stny.rr.com.

After the meeting was adjourned, members and their guests enjoyed a delightful meal on tables decorated with beautiful orchid plants that members brought for this special occasion. The meeting concluded with a raffle of

orchid plants. Free tickets were handed out and 33 plants were raffled. Three members generously declined tickets so that everyone else was able to take home a plant.

January Meeting

Date: January 15, 2006 - 2:00 p.m.
(Snow date, Feb. 19, 2006)

Place: Vestal Public Library

Speaker: Kenneth Hull

Topic: Wild Orchids of New York State

Most of us are familiar with pink lady's slippers (Cypripedium acaule), one of the more common wild orchids in NYS. But did you know that New York has close to 60 species of orchids, more than any state except Florida? Most are found sparingly and in areas alien to humans (bogs, fens, deep woods).

Ken Hull, an amateur wildflower enthusiast, has teamed up with up with a few upstate experts (Charles Ufford, Matt Young, and Evelyn Greene) to locate and photograph several of these species. Besides several Cypripedium species, there are also Spiranthes (ladies' tresses), Goodyera (rattlesnake plantain), Isotria (whorled pogonia), Platanthera (including the fringed orchis), Listera and Liparis (twayblades), Pogonia, Malaxis, Galearis, Calopogon, Arethusa, Corallorhiza (coral root), and the very common Epipactis helleborine.

Ken has documented 33 of the 50+ orchid species native to New York. These will be featured in his slide show. Surprisingly, most of these wild orchids occur within an hour's ride from Binghamton. The richest area is

the Fall Creek drainage northwest of Cortland.

The hunt for wild orchids is tedious, exhilarating and addicting and addicting. It takes going back to habitats several times to find them in flower. Ken has gained a genuine appreciation for Mother Nature and the need to protect rare habitats from human intrusion.

All wild orchids except *Epipactis* are protected, and should not be picked, transplanted or otherwise disturbed. They depend on a very delicate mycorrhizal relationship for their growth and subsistence.

❧ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

February Meeting

Looking ahead, our February meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Vestal Public Library.

We need people to volunteer to bring refreshments to this and future meetings. Please sign up at the January meeting if you'd like to contribute something to our refreshment table.

Program Committee

One of the things that makes our organization enjoyable for the members is the wonderful programs we provide at the meetings. But these events don't happen by themselves. Someone has to decide what kind of topics will interest the audience and then line up the speakers to make it happen.

It hasn't always been easy making sure that we have something scheduled each month, so a Program Committee is being formed so that this responsibility can be shared among several members.

The Program Committee will be responsible for selecting and organizing programs, inviting speakers to our club and developing programs in which club members participate. John Zygmunt and Ken Lattimore have already agreed to sit on this committee and are looking for at least one other member to join them. If you want to make our programs more balanced and successful, please see John or Ken to volunteer your participation.

Even if you're not able to serve on the committee, your suggestions for topics and speakers will be most welcome.

Show Committee Meeting

The first organizational meeting for the annual STOS Orchid Show in April, 2006 will be held in the small meeting room at the Vestal Public Library on Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

Volunteers are needed for all phases of planning, set up, registration, recordkeeping, judging assistance and tear-down. There's a particular need for people with computer skills to assist with registration and record-keeping.

Show Committee members and anyone else who's interested in helping with the show is invited to attend this very important planning meeting.

Please contact Paula by phone at (607)-754-5702 or by e-mail at pmatienzo@stny.rr.com.

Our Newsletter

Like all aspects of our club, the Newsletter is a volunteer endeavor. As such, we rely on our members to supply us with interesting articles and announcements to include each month.

We're fortunate to have among our members many people with a wide variety of orchids, different methods of growing them, and lots of collective knowledge to share with one another.

What can you contribute? Please contact Newsletter Editor Roxanne Shank with articles about your experiences and expertise with orchids, and with ideas about what you'd like to see included in the newsletter.

We've had suggestions for an "Ask the Expert" type of column, and for "Buy, Sell or Trade" listings. Do you have others? Have you grown an especially tricky plant successfully? Have you visited a grower or a show out of our area that you'd like to tell us about?

We're able to include photographs on a limited basis. If you have a photo you'd like to submit, please contact Roxanne. If you have experience formatting photos for electronic or photocopy reproduction, your expertise is especially requested.

Submissions are welcomed in any format, but most helpful will be those sent by e-mail to gentlelake@juno.com. Articles may be sent as e-mail text, an attached Word document. Hard copies delivered to Roxanne at the meetings or mailed to her at 1153 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850-3219 are also acceptable.

The deadline for submissions is the first of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter

Item of Interest

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society will host its 23rd Annual Orchid Show and Sale at the Court of King of Prussia Mall from February 9th through the 12th, 2006.

Show Table

Although we had plenty of beautiful orchids adorning the tables at our annual Holiday Party meeting in December, we didn't feature the "show and tell" portion as we usually do at our meetings. This part of our gatherings is always a much anticipated highlight as members display their beloved orchids in bloom.

Now it can also become a valuable tool in updating our records. As taxonomists continue to refine orchid classifications, the name we once knew our plants by may no longer be the correct nomenclature.

Iris Cohen of North Syracuse has kept track of the changes in nomenclature for both the Rochester and Central NY clubs for over 20 years, and she's graciously offered to do the same for ours as well. Now each month when we write down the plants we've brought for the show table, Roxanne Shank will collect the list and send it to Iris. Iris will then compile the show table list with the correct taxonomy, nomenclature, parents, registered grex name, spelling, abbreviations, etc. and send it back in time for the next newsletter. Hopefully, everyone will read the list and update her or his own information

Many thanks to Iris Cohen for offering to perform this valuable service!

Lucky Coincidences

by Roxanne Shank

Sometimes a lucky coincidence just happens to help everything to fall into place. That's what happened when John Dunkelberger presented a program on Cymbidiums at the STOS meeting last October. When someone mentioned that he lived near State College, PA, bells went off in my head. I'd lived in State College and nearby Pleasant Gap many years ago, and I still travel through the area on my way to and from family visits to Altoona. Maybe, just maybe, I fantasized, I could arrange for a visit sometime on my way back home to Vestal. So when my newly acquired position as STOS Newsletter Editor put me in contact with Shirley Dunkelberger, the Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Newsletter Editor, it seemed it was all coming together, and I asked her if I might stop by after my Christmas trip.

It was a relatively inexperienced orchidophile's dream! Usually I have to get my orchid fixes at our meetings or on an online orchid forum. My friends and family simply don't want to hear me go on and on about my 'chids. They just don't get the fascination with it all, especially my getting excited over a plant that's not even in bloom! Most of you know the feeling, I'm sure.

But John maintains a sizeable greenhouse with more plants than he cares to guess the numbers of – or wants to admit, I suspected by his coy evasion to my asking – and he's quite willing to talk about them. There are orchids on benches lining both sides of the greenhouse, lots of plants hanging overhead, and an ingenious rolling bench in the center that moves from side to side so that there's no space wasted having to have two aisles in the greenhouse. I got the grand tour and spent a delightful hour and a half getting the in-

side scoop on the flowers he was hybridizing, judging orchids and even some reminiscences about a former PSU professor of mine who just happened to be a friend and cofounder with John of the CPOS.

Of course, I wasn't there just to see and talk about orchids! I hadn't been able to purchase a mini Cymbidium when the Dunkelbergers were here, and I'd become determined to give one a try. But we all know that orchids are like potato chips and Border Collies – you can never stop at just one – and so now I have three new orchids. One is a Cym. Tiny Tiger 'Jeanne' x *pumilum* (now *floribundum* var. *pumilum*), with the beginnings of three flower spikes! I also came home with a Cym. goeringii 'Tien Cho' x 'Nila' and a small division of Cym. Solar Flare. One of the things that makes getting these plants from the hybridizer exciting to me is that they are relatively new crosses and haven't yet been mass produced and marketed. Having no experience with Cymbidiums, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I can grow and flower these new 'chids.

I was also entrusted to choose and bring home two plants for Dave Clemens. With John's help I selected Cym. Hiroshima Sweet Eyes 'Momoko' and Cym. Mem. Amelia Earhart x Ruby Eyes 'Red Barron' 4N AM/AOS, and I'm hoping that Dave will enjoy his new acquisitions.

I could easily have spent a lot more time talking orchids with John, but afraid of wearing out my welcome, and with another three hours of driving still ahead of me, I reluctantly drove away, happily sated – at least for a moment – and with fantasies of moving back to Centre County, PA just so I could be closer to the largest private collection of orchids I'd ever had the pleasure to see!



2006 Membership Dues

Starting at the January 15, 2006 meeting, your STOS membership is up for renewal. The dues are \$15 per household, for which we ask you to complete the following form to update our membership and mailing lists for the newsletter. Please bring this form and your payment (either cash or check made payable to: Southern Tier Orchid Society) with you to the meeting. If you are unable to attend on January 15th, please send the form and your payment to:

Anne Tinker
163 Crary Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter (please check one): by mail _____
by e-mail _____

