



Southern Tier Orchid Society

MAY 2007

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. In order to meet publication deadlines, articles must be submitted by the first day of each month meetings are regularly scheduled.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome new members
- A brief description of our 2007 Show
- Repotting and dividing plants: a session dedicated to our new members
- Updates to our website
- Some of our show winners
- April 2007 show table
- Other important dates and events
- What is a CHM? *Cleisostoma birmanicum*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our most recent show was a success, and I offer personal thanks to the Show Committee coordinated by Paula and to all other STOS members who demonstrated their willingness to work as volunteers in spite of sudden and challenging assignments -- a matter of course for our annual show. It was pleasure to see so many of you interacting with one another or with visitors who stopped in to see our biggest event of the year. As if I couldn't be pleased that I convinced some of you to enter your plants into competition as part of the STOS exhibit, I have been even more so in finding out that your plants won some awards. And in case you hadn't noticed, our exhibit took a 2nd place, the result of consid-

erable planning, hard work, and collaboration of a small group of volunteers.

As a tribute to your hard work during show setup, our webmaster Son Tran and I have once again joined forces to update the Photo Gallery on STOS website, and we invite you to share in the memories. You will find yourselves busy with various aspects of the show among the 74 images he captured on Thursday and Friday, as well as images of orchids in flower and exhibits.

Since assistance is always required in any volunteer organization, I hope that you lend us your help with signing up for our monthly refreshments list, photography duty of our monthly show table, and any other area in which we require additional help. As usual, I am also glad to inform you that we have incorporated some new members and the next meeting is dedicated to all of you.

Welcome to new members who joined STOS at the show! At the next meeting on Sunday, May 20, our hands-on demonstration will focus on handling seedlings and other orchid plants. The seedlings will be separated from compots (community pots) and repotted into fine bark medium provided by the club. We will also demonstrate the division of large plants donated by a few generous members for this hands-on experience. Since many growers are fascinated with plants and seedlings mounted on driftwood branches, tree fern plaques and pieces of cork, we will also demonstrate these techniques. If your larger plants need to be divided and repotted, please bring the appropriate size of pot(s) and growing medium (medium-size orchid bark, preferably, pre-soaked). Just in case, a member of our organization will be selling potting media and supplies during session so you can report your plant or division. We advise you to bring a container to pre-soak your medium -- better for your repotted orchids. As in previ-

ous years, the distribution of seedlings will be courtesy of STOS, however, plant divisions that will be made or mounted will be raffled to defray some costs on supplies. A group of experienced growers will be available to show you the steps on orchid repotting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Luis J. Matienzo

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

By becoming a member of STOS, you have satisfied one of our main objectives in putting on our organization's annual show. You are invited to our first meeting and program after the show:

**WHERE: VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY,
COMMUNITY ROOM**

WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 20 – 2 P.M.

**WHAT: "REPOTTING AND DIVIDING
ORCHIDS"**

For many years we have scheduled this hands-on demonstration immediately after the show for novice orchid growers. We hope will whet your appetite to attend our monthly meetings on the 3rd Sunday of each month, except in June, July, and August, when the Vestal Library is closed on Sundays. Regular monthly meetings resume in September with another big event – the annual orchid auction. Watch for details on this in the September issue of the newsletter.

Please feel free to invite friends or family members who might also be interested in the May program or any others in the future.

THE SHOW IN RETROSPECT

After weeks and months of planning and organizing, the Show Committee hopes to have a handle on virtually every foreseeable aspect of the show by the time of setup on Thurs-

day. We even agonize over the minutiae, such as how many copies of various "Welcome, visitors" letter we have at the Information Table or whether all the plastic tablecloths in the storefront are the same color. For the most part, forethought and advance preparation help us move forward into the show with efficiency and permit us to deal with the eventuality of the unexpected. This year was no exception.

Just as I prided myself for knowing who would be doing what and when and where they would be doing it, a call came from Dave Clemens with the alarming news that his wife Carol had been rushed to the hospital and that her diagnosis was not at all certain. Those of you who have been STOS members for a while no doubt are aware how deeply involved both of them have been in the club's activities and how dependent on them STOS has become, most especially for the show. As Carol's condition seemed to be taking a turn for the worse, I launched into a high-alert mode and secured the cooperation of several other STOS members who selflessly offered to fill in the many spots that Dave had planned to occupy. We all wanted Dave to be able to devote his full attention to Carol.

In spite of this emergency, Dave managed to finish cutting the black labels for plants on exhibit before going to the hospital. Lucky for us, she was at Wilson in intensive care. So Dave made his first appearance on Thursday to deliver the customary array of show necessities the two of them have provided for several years: exhibit signs Carol had made, equipment for our exhibit, and AOS information. I was somewhat incredulous when he said that he would return with his plants in the afternoon.

Dave was on his way back to Johnson City with his orchids when he received a call from the hospital with encouraging news: since

Carol's gall bladder had not ruptured as previously thought, she was being scheduled for surgery. Although this surgery took place at 2 A.M. on Friday, Dave has reported that the operation has been an absolute success, much to everyone's relief, and that Carol will make a full recovery from this ordeal. After her release from Wilson, Carol will be undergoing rehabilitation to help her get back on her feet. All of us hope that she'll be up and about soon.

The long and the short of this account is the tremendous spirit of friendship and cohesiveness demonstrated by so many individuals in STOS. In the face of this emergency, you took on duties at the show in addition to the ones to which you were already committed. It is the combined efforts of all of you that have made the show an outstanding event to the public and an unforgettably touching one to me personally.

I would also like to draw your attention to the most gracious team of AOS judges any orchid society could ask for. Once again heading this year's team of 9 judges (7 certified and 2 student) was John Sullivan, who came to our show first as a student judge. Since his certification, he has advanced in recent years to the position of judging chair at our show, John brought Wayne Wiegand, a new member to the judging team this year, consisting of other regulars to our show: Paul Sheetz, Diane Strack, Linda Kennedy, and John and Shirley Dunkelberger. After an absence for a year, Anne Safarewitz has returned, and Irene and Albert Messina, student judges, are just about to be certified. A number of our judges have been guest speakers at our monthly programs, and we are hopeful that we will convince more than one of them to consider a return engagement this year.

As assistants to these judges, eleven STOS members agreed to serve during ribbon judg-

ing on Friday morning, and all found the experience enjoyable and informative. The judges have asked me to make it clear that they wish for clerks to return after the lunch break. They are willing to let us listen in on and even ask questions during their deliberations on both STOS special awards and AOS awards and need our help in bringing in plants from exhibits for their consideration. Please accept their invitation to help with these next levels of judging.

As the most knowledgeable individuals at our show, they are most willing to educate us about anything related to orchids, even during the judging process. Please see my article, "What Is a CHM? The Show Chair Educated" for my first experience with AOS judging further on in this issue of our newsletter.

Paula Matienzo, STOS Show Chair

ATTENTION, SHOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Because the program for the meeting on May 20, "Repotting and Dividing Orchids" requires so much time to set up, the post-show committee meeting will be scheduled at a later date. Please watch for the announcement of this meeting via e-mail or regular mail. We hope that you'll be able to attend. Thanks!

APRIL MINUTES

General Meeting: Luis Matienzo called the meeting to order. Treasurer's report followed. LuAnn Myers, STOS librarian, reported that only 50% of the books and materials from our library have been accounted for. A new listing will be posted on our website along with the procedures governing book loans from the STOS library.

The president was informed that the **CNYOS show** at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville, NY, will be held **September 21-23, 2007**. The scheduling of the CNYOS show, therefore, presents no apparent conflict with our own annual plant auction on Sunday, September 16, our major fundraiser.

Increased traffic on the website has been noticed in response to the inclusion of the Photo Gallery and most recently information pertinent to our 2007 show. Meeting adjourned.

Program: Bob Rudin, Pete O'Connell and Luis Matienzo presented show information on rules, plant entry preparations, awards and the roles of clerks and judges

Paula Matienzo (for Gen Downs)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balances are as shown below. Total funds available \$7,457.38, plus a CD of \$2000 for a total of \$9,457.38.

Income: \$2610.00

Expenses: \$356.87

Membership goal: 3 memberships short at present time

Peter O'Connell, Treasurer

REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

More than one person may sign up for an individual meeting so that the cost and work can be shared among members. Please note that volunteers are still needed for several upcoming meetings.

Current refreshments list includes:

May – Sandy Marsh & Martha Birch

September – Open

October – Open

November – Open

APRIL SHOW TABLE

Please note that some images from the show table can be seen on our website under the button marked as STOS Gallery. With your assistance, we will add more images.

Paph. Maude Read x Sunken Treasure
Paph. Eric Meng x Shadow Magic
Paph. Hsinying Dragon
Grown by C. Dimon

Paph. Hsinying Alien
Lc. Rojo
Bc. Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS
Grown by Roxanne Shank:
Milt. (Hajime Ono 'Trade Winds' x Anneli Loeb 'Red Skin')
Blc. Orglade's Happy Face 'Bright Future' x
Blc. Harold Smith
Grown by Pete O'Connell

Onc. (Tol) Orchidom Dancer
Grown by Susan Gal

C. skinneri alba 'Debbie' FCC/AOS
Grown by Ken Lattimore

ANNUAL SHOW AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND PAINTING & DRAWING

Please note: Best in Show and other awards for photographs are featured under "Annual Show" on our website: www.storchidsociety.com

BEST IN SHOW:

Masdevallia (Patricia Bonamo)

PHOTOGRAPHS:

1st PLACE: *Dracula cordobae* (G. Gould)
2nd PLACE: *Phalaenopsis Hybrid* (J. Zygmunt)

3rd PLACE: Hanging Pink Orchids (D. Miller)

Honorable Mention: Purple Orchid Staminate (Grant La Barr)

PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS

1st PLACE: Orchids & Iron (David Geer)
2nd PLACE: Miltoniopsis (Joan Welzenbach)
3rd PLACE: Ladyslipper (Joan I. Larson)

Submitted by judges: Kathryn M. Niles and Karen Fedczuk.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND BEST IN-CLASS ON PAGE 7.

A REMINDER

This month's meeting is followed by a recess in June. An informal meeting will be held in July and the official STOS picnic will be held in August. Information on these activities will be communicated to members by regular mail or electronic mail.

Our September meeting will feature our annual plant auction. This is an opportunity to obtain high-quality plants at reasonable prices. Please plan to attend.

MAY SHOW TABLE

As usual, the May meeting will have a show table so we can incorporate more images of your beauties in the STOS gallery. Please bring those plants that hesitated to open for the show or some of the new ones you bought at the show. Volunteer(s) to take pictures with digital cameras and to record these plants in digital format are particularly needed



WHAT IS A CHM? THE SHOW CHAIR EDUCATED

As luck would have it, I just happened to be in the storefront while the judges were considering AOS awards. At the judges' request, Luis had already managed to pull the *Cleisostoma birmanicum* from the exquisite CNYOS exhibit, but only by disassembling the terrarium in which it was nestled. I was thrilled when Head Judge John Sullivan invited me to stay and watch the judging process, but even more thrilled when asked to smell the fragrance of this unusual plant (a member of the alliance to which the more familiar phals and vandas belong,) as the plant made its way from one judge to another around the table.

The judges decided to grant this fine specimen the CHM, or Certificate of Horticultural Merit, defined in the American Orchid Society's Handbook on Exhibition and Judging (11th ed.) as follows: "Awarded to a cultivar of a well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrid with outstanding esthetic appeal that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology" (44). On the point scale for the CHM award, esthetic appeal assumes a more significant role among judging criteria (with a maximum of 28 points), in comparison with in other AOS awards. To receive the CHM, the cultivar must have a point score of at least 80 – and this *Cleis. birmanicum* received 84, no doubt for its alluring fragrance, and part of its "esthetic appeal."

The CHM, however, is a provisional award, for which the burden of proof is on the grower to furnish "full taxonomic verification by a taxonomist acceptable to AOS" (AOS Handbook, 44). In other words, is this really *Cleis. birmanicum*, or is it something else? The grower of this particular plant is Judi Witkin, who has already contacted Dr John

Atwood in Woodstock, VT, the taxonomist recommended by John Sullivan. Judi has been instructed to cut a flower from her plant, wrap it carefully, fit it into a film canister, and ship the package containing the flower and a photograph to Atwood. According to AOS requirements, the verification process has to take place within a year. (For more complete information on taxonomic verification, please consult the links for "Judging" and "Taxonomic Authorities" on the AOS website: www.aos.org .) Since Judi is consulting a taxonomist in the United States, there is a greater likelihood that verification can be completed within the next year.

Those of us who take pleasure in miniatures and botanicals have already recognized Judi for horticultural merit in her well-cultivated collection of unusual orchid species. Like Judi, we eagerly await the results from Dr. Atwood on the true identity of what she entered in our show as *Cleisostoma birmanicum*. We congratulate Judi personally for including this plant in the CNYOS exhibit and CNYOS, where she serves as president and exhibit coordinator, for winning the Show Trophy. This AOS award is presented only when at least 2/3 of the judges each score an exhibit at 80 points or above.

Following this plant through AOS judging and on to the conditions Judi has to meet to receive the CHM award have been a source of both intellectual excitement and greater understanding of the awards process for me. As show chair, I count this as one of the highlights of our 2007 show, and I hope that you judging clerks of future shows will take advantage of open judging encouraged by this amazing team of judges who serve us from year to year.

PRM

A SUMMARY OF SPECIAL AWARDS AND BEST IN CLASS

Class	Class Description	Table	Grower	Genus species	Awards
049G	Oncidium Alliance (Oncidiinae) Allied Oncidium genera; species, hybrids and intergeneric hybrids other than above.	CYNOS*	Tom Daily	<i>Mxc ghiesbreghtiana</i> (LIGHTS)	Jim Kie Award – Best Grown Under Lights Best in Group Classes 44 – 50
030E	Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance (Sarcanthinae) Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, White, no markings.	Marlow Orchids	Jim Marlow	Phal Yu Pin Fair-lady	Best in Group Classes 27 – 39
015C	Cymbidium Alliance (Cymbidiinae) Cymbidium hybrids – Standard.	Black Meadow Orchids	Mariane Garceau	Cymbidium Nancy Brown ‘Elisabeth’	Best Grown Greenhouse Plant Best in Group Classes 14 – 16
061I	Botanicals Orchid species, not covered elsewhere	Just Pat Orchids	Paul Sheetz	<i>Epi .congestoides</i>	Best in Group Classes 57 – 65
042F	Dendrobium Alliance (Dendrobii-nae) Dendrobium hybrids – all other types.	Just Pat Orchid	Paul Sheetz	Den Gerald McCraith ‘Lourens’ AM/AOS	Best in Group Classes 40 – 43
010B	Cattleya Alliance (Laeliinae) Cattleya hybrids, intergeneric hybrids, lavender.	Just Pat Orchid	Paul Sheetz	Slc Dream Cloud ‘Sparkler’	Best in Show – Hybrid Best in Group Classes 6 – 13 Received AOS Award HCC/AOS 78 pts. at show
056H	Pleurothallid Alliance Pleurothal-lid alliance – miniature (6” or less, NOT including inflorescence) May also be entered in 026	CNYOS	Judi Witkin	<i>Spe. tribuloides</i> (LIGHTS)	Best in Group Classes 51 – 56
021D	Paphiopedilum Alliance (Cypripediae) Hybrids, Maudiae type.	CNYOS	Iris Cohen	Paph Limelight ‘Crossman’ AM/AOS	Best in Group 17 – 26
027E	Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance (Sarcanthinae) Species, all except Phal. and Doritis.	CNYOS	Judi Witkin	<i>Cleis birmanicum</i> (LIGHTS)	Received AOS Award CHM/AOS 84 pts. at show
008B	Cattleya Alliance (Laeliinae) Cattleya species.	Just Pat Orchid	Paul Sheetz	<i>Cattleya skinneri</i> ‘Debbie’ FCC/AOS	Best in Show – Species
003A	Exhibits 25 to 49 square feet. Display of orchid plants in flower, arranged for effect.	CNYOS	CNYOS Club	Exhibit 25 – 49	Show Trophy – AOS Award for Excellent Exhibit
016C	Cymbidium Alliance (Cymbidiinae) Cymbidium hybrids – Miniature.	AOS JUDGING ONLY	John Dunkel-berger	Cym Tiger Moth x <i>sinense</i> ‘Chocolate Drop’	Received AOS Award AM/AOS 80 pts. at show

(*) CYNOS = Central New York Orchid Society