



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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### Show Chairs

Anne Tinker  
Dee Janis  
Lin Richards

### Web Page

<http://www.storchidsociety.com/>

April 2009

## NEXT MEETINGS

April 19 - 1:00 Show Meeting, Vestal Library

April 19, 2009 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

May 17, 2009 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

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## We Need Your Help

Our Annual Show is in a very few weeks and we can use your help! Several of the areas where you can help us are:

- \* Friday morning for the judging of plants.
- \* Thursday and Sunday for set-up and tear-down.
- \* Anytime during the show at the information table (please contact Bob Rudin for this)
- \* Helping with the Consignment Table

None of these jobs are difficult, the set-up and tear-down are for the physically fit and the information table involves sitting and handing out care sheets and directing people.

Please contact Anne Tinker or Dee Janis if you can help!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of each month to the editor.

If you have difficulties with the electronic format of this newsletter, please contact the webmaster at: info at storchidsociety dot com

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## President's Message

The time has flown by and now "It's Show Time"!!!!

We will be having a Show Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m., ahead of our regular meeting on April 19. This will be our last chance to finalize our plans for our show that will be happening at the end of that same week.

At our regular meeting, which will begin at 2:00 p.m, we will have a talk on preparing plants for show by Bob Rudin, as well as plant identification and registration information by Pete O'Connell. This will also be our final time for signups to work in various capacities through out our show weekend.

Please come and share in the fun!

Anne Tinker, President

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## Minutes

President, Anne Tinker called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Motion was called to approve the February 15, 2009 minutes and it passed.

Treasurer, Pete O'Connell gave his report. It was called to approve the report and it passed. He also read the letters from AOS and the North-East Judging Center thanking us for the donations.

The 2009 Show Committee held their meeting prior to this one. Dee Janis gave a report on the Show meeting. We still need volunteers to be at the Information Table, to be Judging Clerks, and to help in setting up and tearing down.

Geoff Gould gave his report of the Art portion of the Show. Geoff added that there is no need to frame the photos. You can put them on foam board with it matted and also have wire on the back for hanging.

It was mentioned that since we are an educational organization we should not only educate the public but also ourselves. An easy way of doing that: if you know the name of a hybrid orchid and want to find the parents or if you know the parents and want to find the name of the hybrid, the Royal Horticultural Orchid has a database to help - [http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration\\_orchids.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp)

The Kew Royal Botanic Gardens has a Checklist of Monocotyledons that will help you find the proper name of a species - <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>

These will help especially if you are entering any of your plants in the April Show.

Anyone interested in helping with refreshments please let Dee Janis know.

If you have not paid your dues please pay them A.S.A.P.

Luis Matienzo announced that there is a new addition to the Library. Shari and Rob Neuberger donated "The Classic Cattleyas" by Chadwick and Chadwick in honor of Bob Rudin's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which was October 31, 2008. He also added that he has donated more "Orchids" to the Library.

We broke for refreshments, raffle, and a slide show about Masdevallia and Dracula genera.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnn Myers, Secretary

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## Treasurer's Report

There is no Treasurer's Report

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### American Orchid Society Article Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes

#### Darwin Week

February 12 marked the 200th birthday of a man whose theories would profoundly affect the future of natural science. This week honors the contributions of the 19th-century naturalist, Charles Darwin. At 23, Darwin set out on a five year expedition as naturalist for the HMS Beagle. The brig was sent on a surveying voyage and visited Brazil, Argentina, Tierra del Fuego, Chile, Peru the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia and other countries and islands on the way (*Darwin and the Beagle*, Moorehead, 1969). On these travels, he developed his theory of evolution.

Orchids were the focus of many of Darwin's botany experiments conducted on his travels as well as at home. He regarded the great variety of orchid flowers as a result of the adaptation to their pollinators. He visited the Devon Coast and spent hours on his hands and knees, watching insects visit wild orchids. These were the days when orchid fancy had taken hold in Victorian England and he received many rare specimens from these orchid growers. He determined that orchid petals were exquisite devices for guiding pollinators to particular places for docking pollen. Every ridge served this end. He was fascinated by the *Catasetums* that fired sticky pollen masses at visiting bees.

He published, in 1862, a book entitled: *On the Various Contrivances by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilised by Insects*. He showed that an orchid's beauty was not to please humans but evolved by natural selection to attract insect cross-pollinators. He believed that cross-pollinated plants would produce fitter offspring than self-pollinators.



Angraecum sesquipedale. Photographed at the Fuqua Conservatory, Atlanta

Darwin first saw *Angraecum sesquipedale* in 1862. Its foot-long spur holds nectar at its very tip. "Astounding," Darwin wrote, of this strange adaptation. "What insect could suck it?" He predicted that Madagascar must be home to an insect with an incredibly long feeding tube. No such insect had ever been found. More than 60 years later, a naturalist in Madagascar discovered the giant hawk moth (*Xanthopan morgani*), which hovering like a hummingbird uses its long proboscis to reach the distant nectar. (*Darwin* by Adrian Desmond & James Moore)



Communities across the country will be celebrating with many varied activities. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has an exhibit, January 24, 2009 - April 26, 2009, Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes. Website: [www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/). The American Museum of Natural History 2005-2006 Darwin exhibit is now on their website at [www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/).

You can read from Darwin's works at the Darwin Digital Library of Evolution at [darwinlibrary.amnh.org](http://darwinlibrary.amnh.org) which is based at the American Museum of Natural History Library. The goal of this undertaking is to make the full literature of evolution available online within a historically and topically coherent structure.

The work of Charles Robert Darwin is our pivot, but our framework includes the 17th century to the present and encompasses the history of evolution as a scientific theory with deep roots and broad cultural consequences. DDLE is a pilot project drawing on resources of members of the Biodiversity Heritage Library Consortium1 contributions are included from the Natural History Museum (London) and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

And for those of us who still like to read books, I would recommend *Darwin* by Adrian Desmond & James Moore and *Darwin's Ghost - The Origin of Species Updated* - by Steve Jones.

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### Orchids In The News And On The Web

**Darwin: The "Reluctant Revolutionary"**  
**'Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes'**

Weekend Edition Sunday, February 22, 2009 · Orchids. These brilliant, flashy, sensual, and sometimes graphic flowers fascinated Charles Darwin. In his book, *On The Various*  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100980065>

**Orchids by Hausermann painstakingly clones plants**

It can take 18 months to reproduce, and 7 years to mature them  
 Growing orchids is not as easy as planting some seeds or clipping off a sprig and sticking it in a coffee can full of water.

[www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-orchids-w-zone-26feb26\\_0\\_5321225.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-orchids-w-zone-26feb26_0_5321225.story)

*If the links above do not work, please contact the newsletter editor as the stories have been backed up. If you have any orchid stories or news, please forward the links to the editor.*

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### Next Meeting

- January 18 ~ Joe Kunish, Paphiopedilums
- July ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
- February 15 ~ Holidays party
- August 16 ~ Annual Picnic
- March 15 ~ Masdevallias & Draculas
- September 20 ~ Annual Orchid Auction
- April 19 ~ Pre-Show Meeting
- October 18 ~ John Dunkelburger - Cymbidiums
- May 17 ~ To be announced
- November 15 ~ Cordelia Head / J & L Orchids
- June ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
- December 20 ~ Holiday party

*Please remember that these are tentative and subject to last minute change.*

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### 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, so be sure to sign up if you haven't already. Just let Dee Janis know if you can help. Her contact info is on the front page.

Current refreshments list includes:

- April 19 ~
- September 20 ~
- May 17 ~
- October 18 ~
- June ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
- November 15 ~
- July ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
- December 20 ~ Holiday party - Everyone

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**Mark Your Calendar**

Jan. 24-April 26 Smithsonian, Washington, DC - Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes  
 Feb. 28-April 12 NY Botanical Garden Orchid Show "Brazilian Modern" at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at the Bronx Botanical Garden. Tickets at 718 817 8700, or NYBG.org  
 April 2-5 GROS Spring Show & Sale  
 April 24-26 STOS Spring Show & Sale- Judging April 24, Oakdale Mall  
 May 3 CNYOS meeting Orchid Auction 2 PM  
 October 2-4 CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake

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**So You Want to Enter a Plant?**

If you want to enter one or more of your orchids in flower for the show but are not quite sure what information is needed, it may help you to read the article "Basics of Orchid Names," which may be found on the AOS website. Go to [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org), select **Orchid Information**, then **Orchid Resources**, and finally 'Help with Entering Plants'.

The article begins, "Understanding orchid names enhances the pleasure of this hobby. Initially, it is easy to talk with friends using common names like moth orchids and lady's-slipper orchids. But eventually one needs to come to grips with botanical names." The process of entering your plants for the show particularly emphasizes this point.

The example cited is *Odontioda* Star Trek 'Harlequin', HCC/AOS, which is explained as follows:

- \* It is a member of the genus *Odontioda*
- \* It is a hybrid (or grex) named Star Trek
- \* 'Harlequin' is its clonal name
- \* And it has received a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) from the American Orchid Society for its flowers, which scored from 75 to 79 points on a 100-point scale.

"Basics of Orchid Names" gives further details on each of these parts of plant names, distinguishes between specific epithets in Latin (for species) and grex names (non-Latin) for hybrids, and even offers help with pronunciation.

So one of the first things you'll need to determine is whether each plant is a hybrid or species.

FOR HYBRIDS - these taxonomic aids from the Royal Horticultural Society, where hybridizers formally register their orchid crosses, have been added to the instructions at the top of the plant entry form for our 2009 show:

**Need help? Go to: [http://www.rhs.org.uk/seedlist/registerpages/orchid\\_parentage.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/seedlist/registerpages/orchid_parentage.asp) if you know the parents and want to find the hybrid name.**

For example, an item listed as a Catt family seedling cross at our auction in September: seed parent is *Cattleya bicolor*, pollen parent is *Caularthron bicornutum*. The grex name is *Caulocattleya* Paul Vondersaar, and finding this information means that this hybrid was registered.

**Or: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/seedlist/registerpages/orchidsearch.asp> if you know the hybrid name and want to confirm the spelling.**

I tested a number of other entries on our auction list and found that you do not need to enter the full name for some genera when you enter the abbreviation followed by % (the wild card). These include

