



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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Web Page

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

February 2009

NEXT MEETINGS

February 15, 2009 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

March 15, 2009 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

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- Holidays Party information
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Holidays Delayed Party

This month's meeting will be our December holiday celebration that was canceled due to bad weather.

Please come join us. It's a potluck with everyone bringing a dish to share.

If you have any plants in bloom please bring them to brighten the dark days of winter!

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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

AOS Presidents Message

Carlos Fighetti
AOS President

Back to Basics

Economic uncertainty is forcing us to look into our operations and determine which are the most important services to our membership and hence come up with a new strategy to weather the storm. For this to happen, we need to set priorities.

To the majority of our members, *Orchids* magazine is the most important reward of being members of this organization. So, our top priority is to publish a quality magazine, and we intend to continue to do this. As I explained in last month's column, in order to reduce the cost of production, we made some changes. The width has been slightly reduced to get better use of the paper at the printer, and the number of pages has decreased. Also, the cover finish has been changed and the binding replaced by the original saddle stitch type that the *AOS Bulletin* had. All of this provides us with enough savings to allow us to continue with a monthly publication.



Our second priority is AOS judging. Again, this is an aspect of high importance to a great number of our members as they exhibit orchid plants everywhere. Many of you may not be aware that orchid flower and plant judging occurs every month at 35 different sites in the United States and Canada and routinely more than 700 AOS judges and student judges participate. In addition, AOS judging occurs at orchid shows throughout the United States as well as all over the world. We are committed to support all of these activities as usual by quarterly upgrading our *AQ Plus®* computer program that contains all awards statistics and images since judging was started in 1932, and by providing the necessary paperwork support and processing of all awards in a timely basis.

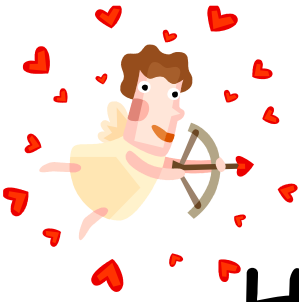
Third, our Web site will continue to receive our attention as many of our members and orchid growers in general worldwide use electronic media to access information on all aspects of orchidology. Through the Web site we will be able to disseminate information on how to grow plants, provide articles of interest in all orchid aspects and provide news about the organization. Also, articles that we cannot place in our magazine for lack of available space will appear on www.aos.org.

This does not mean that we are going to forget about education, conservation and research. On the contrary, this is our mission, and we are committed to continuing to foster the passion for orchids. It only means that for the time being we will not be able to provide additional grant funding for these activities.

What we are facing today are extraordinary economic times with no clear end in sight. After a year of holding a steady membership level, we are starting to see a decline again. Also, contributions to our general fund for operations have substantially decreased. All of this has forced us now to do what we are doing. It is our Board's responsibility as leaders of this organization to preserve our resources so that the organization continues to exist as it has done for 88 years. Consequently, we have decided to concentrate on the activities listed above. We have significantly reduced our staff at the Delray Beach facilities and have put on hold or cancelled some of the activities at the headquarters.

However, I must reiterate what I said in last month's column. The AOS is debt free, and we will continue that way. We have more than \$1.7 million dollars in restricted funds for programs such as the construction of a library, for research, for annual awards and other projects and we will continue to safeguard these funds as required by law. It is also our intention to remain in our headquarters facility and to maintain our gardens; so much of which has been donated by our membership, so that when we come out of this recession, we can continue to grow as our predecessors originally intended.

The volunteer leadership and staff cannot do this alone. We need your help. We need you to help us reduce our expenses by, for example, renewing your membership immediately when it is due. Do you know that it costs us \$9 for every renewal that it is not done when the first renewal notice is sent? We also need your help in securing new members. This can be done by promoting our organization at your local and regional meetings or at shows and judging. Sometimes, all you have to do is bring a copy of *Orchids* magazine and show it to your friends. And, most certainly you can help us by making a fully tax deductible, unrestricted contribution to the AOS. Dues alone are not enough to provide all of services listed above.



S.T.O.S.



Holidays Delayed Party

February 15, 2009 2:00 pm

Vestal Public Library

We're going to celebrate the holidays that we missed because of snow and ice, and also celebrate the holidays that are just passed and coming soon!
Think Spring!

Please bring some food to share and utensils to serve it if needed.



If you have plants in bloom bring those also to decorate the room!



Don't forget to bring a spouse or friend to our celebration.

