



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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Anne Tinker
Dee Janis
Lin Richards

Web Page

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

February 2010

NEXT MEETINGS

February 21, 2010 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

March 21, 2010 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

IN THIS ISSUE

- SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING at 1:30 p.m., just prior to our regular meeting at 2:00.
- Cutting Orchid Keikis

Vanilla Orchid

Pete O'Connell has graciously offered to do another program for us this month. The topic will be "The Vanilla Orchid".

Ever wonder where the stuff in the bottle comes from? Pete is going to explain it to us, having recently cured a vanilla pod himself. He will also explain the culture of the plant and its particular needs.

Probably the second most expensive spice in the world, saffron being the first, a vanilla pod can take over a year to produce from the first flowering to the curing.

Best of all, Pete will have several specimens with him to distribute to members.

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: [southerntierorchidsociety at gmail dot com](mailto:southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com)

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President's Message

Sadly, this past month, we lost one of our long time members, Soini O'Connell. I feel privileged to have known Soini in the time since I joined STOS. She was a lovely, warm, charming woman and she will be sadly missed by everyone whose lives she has touched in some way. Our sympathy goes out to Harry, Lin, Pete, Bill and all of the O'Connell family.

At the time of our February meeting, our show will be only two months away. We will be sharing where we are in the process of planning the show and be discussing areas that we will be needing help in . Now we really need to gear up to be ready by April. Please get involved and help us make this a successful show for 2010.

We have no one signed up for refreshments for this month so we need people to try to bring something for our meeting.

See you at the meeting!
Anne Tinker, President

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Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m., by President, Anne Tinker. There were 14 members present.

The slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee was read. It was noted that we would have to vote to set aside one of the bylaws to allow Pete O'Connell to service another year. This was proposed, voted on and passed. The vote was taken for the slate of officers and passed unanimously.

There was concern raised after the fact that someone was elected to the office of Secretary and yet he never attends the meetings. This concern was shared by others and it was decided that Dee Janis would contact this person to determine if he intended to become active in the club and fulfill his role as secretary. If he does not intend to become active, then he will need to resign and we will need to elect another person for the job of Secretary.

A nomination was advanced for Carol Browne to be considered for the secretary position if the person originally elected was not intending to serve. This will be discussed and/or voted on at our next meeting.

The 2010 dues are now due so please sent them to Pete O'Connell, along with a membership form indicating any changes since last year.

Pete O'Connell presented the 2010 budget and called attention to two items regarding the club's donations. He proposed \$200 to the N. E. Judging Center and \$200 to AOS, to be split between operations and education.

The budget was voted on and passed as submitted.

At this point, we have no one signed up for refreshments for our meetings this year and we need volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments for our meetings.

A suggestion was made to have a Sunshine committee/person to send out get well cards etc to members of the STOS who may be ill. Sharon Voorhees has volunteered to do this so please let Sharon or one of the officers know if one of our members is hospitalized or ill for a period of time.

We had a show table display and the orchids were described.

With no further business, the business meeting was adjourned and our program followed.

Pete O'Connell presented a very well done and informative program on orchid pests and diseases that was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Tinker, President

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Treasurer's Report

The current reporting period (December 1, 2009 to January 1, 2010) started with a balance of \$9,214.05. Expenses for holiday meeting raffle plants, meat platter, postage and printing totaled \$403.66. Income from plants sales and raffle plants totaled \$95.00, bringing the monthly total to \$8,905.39. The CD is at \$2,227.12 for a total funds available of \$11,132.51. Last year's ending balances were \$7,875.66 plus CD of \$2,108.39 for a total of \$8,297.91.

Income exceeded expenses by \$1,594.73 due to excess on the show and auction, and a few expenditures not being made.

The books have been closed out at the end of the year and the final year-end figures are available.

Pete O'Connell, Treasurer

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Cutting Orchid Keikis

The word "keiki" is from the Hawaiian word meaning "baby" or "child." When used in the context of orchids, it represents a baby plant produced by an orchid which is an exact clone of the mother plant. Some orchids, such as Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium and Epidendrum produce keikis regularly.

Here are some pictures of a Phal keiki from one of my favorite vendors Repotme (<http://www.repotme.com/orchid-care/Orchid-Keikis.html>). You can see how the little plant is growing from the finished inflorescence and now has two leaves and three roots. This is about the correct size to remove the plantlet and pot it in its own container. Most growers recommend that you cut above and below the keiki and include a piece of the inflorescence when trying to pot a keiki. This eliminates the difficulty of cutting it off the inflorescence and possibly destroying it. Be sure you use a sterile cutting tool such as razor blades or a sterilized pair of snips to keep the plant healthy. After cutting, be sure to spray with a fungicide to keep problems from forming on the cut edges.

Dendrobiums produce keikis along their canes where a leaf is produced quite regularly and they sometimes will produce one instead of an inflorescence at the tip of the growing cane. Many growers have luck cutting a cane and laying it on its side in sand or just on a growing shelf and the cane will produce little keikis at the points where there were formerly leaves. If you have a favorite Dendrobium, you can do this and give all your friends pieces of it. Follow the directions above as far as cutting and spraying.

Carefully plant your babies in small, usually 2 inch, or 5 centimeter, containers. Some growers plant Phal keikis back in the pot with the mother plant. Most orchids grow best in root bound conditions when potted so small pots are preferred. Soak the medium for at least several hours, preferably overnight, so that there is moisture available when the plant is first put in the pot. Plant so that the crown of the plant is just above the medium. Keep in a warmer, shadier spot than the mother plant until it is obvious that the baby is starting to grow on its own. This will generally take about a month. Then move to a spot in the same conditions as the mother plant. You can keep this original reproduction or clone of your plant or give it to a friend.

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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

February 21 ~ Pete O'Connell ~ The Vanilla Orchid
March 21 ~
April 18 ~ Show meeting!!
May 16 ~
June ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
July ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus

August ~ Annual Picnic - *Watch for the date!*
September 19 ~
October 17 ~
November 21 ~
December 19 ~ 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 ALL 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:

February 21 ~
March 21 ~
April 18 ~
May 16 ~
June ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
July ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus

August ~ Annual Picnic - *Watch for the date!*
September 19 ~
October 17 ~
November 21 ~
December 19 ~ Holiday party - Everybody!

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Potting Mix (or Miscellany)

- ◆ Our updated library list will be in a future issue.
- ◆ Please note that in the very near future our website will have a "Show Table Plants" form for your use when you bring plants to our monthly meetings. We're hoping that you will print one up and fill it out and then give it to one of the officers. This will hopefully simplify things for your getting credit for your plants in the newsletter.
- ◆ We really need a little help with refreshments at the meetings - if you haven't done so in the last year, please consider helping out with this.

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