



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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### Show Chairs

Anne Tinker  
Dee Janis  
Lin Richards

### Web Page

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

## March 2010

### NEXT MEETINGS

March 21, 2010 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library  
April 18, 2010 ~ 2:00 Vestal Library

### IN THIS ISSUE

- SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING
- Making More of your Favorite Orchids
- Expand Your Orchid Growing Space

### NOTES

- ◆ If your name on the address label has **yellow** on it, then this is your last newsletter - PLEASE RENEW!!! We will miss you if you don't!
- ◆ Please note that on March 21, there will be a 1:15pm show committee meeting immediately before our regularly scheduled meeting. The show is coming soon and there are a few last loose ends to wrap up.
- ◆ Please note that our Secretary has tendered his resignation and Carol Browne has graciously offered to serve as our new Secretary. This will be voted on at the start of our March meeting.
- ◆ Does anyone have a Phal with four to six leaves that Iris Cohen can use for her keiki demonstration - if so, please contact Dee at 607/217-5889.

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

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### President's Message

We made it --- by the time of our meeting, Spring will be officially here! As we are thinking about spring, this means that our annual show is only one month away. We will be having a show committee meeting at 1:15pm, just ahead of our regular meeting this month. Everyone, please be thinking about how you might be able to give some time to help out with our show. It takes many hands to make this show happen, from Thursday doing set up, taking a turn on our information table throughout the weekend, clerking for the judging, and finally tearing down on Sunday. While it is a lot of work, we always have a lot of fun! Please come and join us!.

We are pleased to have as our speaker for this month, Iris Cohen, from the Syracuse club. She will be speaking and doing a demonstration on using keiki paste for cloning Phalaenopsis orchids. Iris was a student judge and has been growing orchids for many years. We are looking forward to having her with us and benefiting from her experience.

See you at the meeting!  
Anne Tinker, President

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### Minutes

The February meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society was called to order by President Anne Tinker at 2:00pm.

As our secretary had missed another meeting, the topic of how to handle the situation was discussed. Pete O'Connell suggested waiting till the March meeting and the board could come to a resolution.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. Pete also mentioned that he was going to delay purchase of proposed audio/visual equipment which he felt would cost approximately \$1,000.00; purchase will be made at a future time.

Show Report: Discussion was now held about our April STOS Show at the Oakdale Mall. We now have six judges signed on with the possibility of three more. Arrangements have been made for rooms for the judges at La Quinta. This led to Pete mentioning our schedule for the event, with set-up taking place on Thursday, April 22nd at noon. Take down of show displays would commence on Sunday, April 25th at 5:00 pm. As Geof Gould, who is in charge of the Art Show, could not attend the meeting, he requested that all members pass the word for entries. Don't forget your plant entries as well. Please see the STOS website for entry forms for both plant and art entries under the "Show" tab.

New York City Botanical Gardens is housing an Orchid Show on the April 8<sup>th</sup>. Shafer Bus tours has a bus tour at a cost of \$108.00. Full information is available on their website.

After business was conducted, members came forward to show their orchids in bloom to the membership. In memory of Peter O'Connell's mother, Colin mentioned that he was going to name an orchid (Paph lowii 'Soini') in her memory.

After flowers were auctioned off, we were all treated to a wonderful presentation of the Vanilla Orchid, the only culinary orchid in the entire species. Not only were we shown slides of this orchid's growth, but also examples of the vanilla bean which Peter, after much trial, finally was awarded the end product of his labor of love. Peter was kind enough to bring pieces of the vanilla orchid and gave pieces to interested members to plant.

We adjourned for refreshments after the business meeting and Peter's presentation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Browne, Acting Secretary

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### Treasurer's Report

The current reporting period (January 1, 2010 to February 1, 2010) started with a balance of 8,905.39. Income was from raffle, dues and plant sales with a total of \$184.00. Expenses were \$23.61 for meeting refreshments and supplies, show insurance - \$183.18, newsletter printing & postage - \$29.44, NE Judging Ctr donation - \$300.00, donation AOS operating \$200.00, donation AOS education \$100.00, leaving a balance of \$8,253.21. The CD adds another \$2,227.12 for total funds available of \$10,480.33.

Last years totals at the beginning of February were **\$7,371.86** plus a CD of **\$2,108.39** for total funds available of **\$9480.25**.

The 2010 budget was approved by the membership at the January meeting, and the 2009 books were presented for review.

Pete O'Connell, Treasurer

~\*

### Making More of your Favorite Orchids

The March meeting will feature a demonstration of using keiki paste to clone Phalaenopsis orchids. Keiki is the Hawaiian word for baby, and it is used for an offset or adventitious plantlet, especially on orchids. The correct native pronunciation is kay-ee-kee, but in English it is shortened to two syllables.

Dr. James Brasch invented keiki paste, trade name Keikigrow Plus, a little more than 30 years ago while trying to rescue a rare plant that was extinct in the wild. It is a formula of plant hormones and vitamins in lanolin paste. He has since developed several other products for use on orchids. For further information, go to <http://www.orchidmall.com/hormones/index.htm>. Keikigrow is intended for use on a variety of plants, but is specially formulated for Phals.

At the meeting, there will be a series of Phals showing phases in the development of a keiki, and the procedure will be demonstrated. Dr. Brasch has also provided us with a PowerPoint, which will be donated to the club library. If you have a special Phal or Doritaenopsis that you would like duplicated, bring it to the meeting. It should be toward the end of its blooming period, with the last flower open, or could be finished blooming, as long as the flower stem is still green. Do NOT cut off the end of the stem. Any remaining flowers or buds should be removed. Don't forget; if you are successful in producing a keiki, label it and the parent plant with a clone name if the latter doesn't already have one.

If time permits, we will also demonstrate how to pollinate an orchid. If you have an orchid in bloom that you would like to get seeds from, or two orchids that you want to cross, bring them along. There are facilities available for germinating orchid seeds.

Please do not bring any plants for either of these procedures unless they have been virus tested by reliable methods. It is very important to control the spread of virus, both in your own collection and as a courtesy to others. For cloning Phals, if you don't have time to test the plants before the meeting, be sure to test them before you cut the keiki off. In hybridizing, both parents must have been tested.

We have something else to look forward to. Dr. Brasch has also kindly donated a sample of Keikigrow for the raffle table. Don't miss this novel program. For information about the demonstration, contact Iris Cohen, 315-461-9226, [iriscohen@aol.com](mailto:iriscohen@aol.com).

I have been growing orchids for 36 years. I was a student judge many years ago, but was unable to complete the training process. During the winter my orchids are in a fluorescent light garden with a somewhat controlled environment. For the summer, most of my orchids are outdoors, but not the Phals. They spend the summer on a sunny windowsill. I have used keiki paste in the past, and also tried my hand at hybridizing.

I put keiki paste on several Phals last year. Some of them produced only distorted flower stems. It is common for a plant to produce both flower buds and keikis. One keiki completed its development in January and was donated to the CNYOS raffle table in March. There are no long-term effects on the parent plant that I know of, but growing a keiki can be stressful. It should only be attempted on a mature healthy plant. Following removal of the keiki, make sure the plant recovers under optimum conditions.

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**Expand Your Orchid Growing Space**

If you have been growing orchids for any length of time, you know how easy it is to run out of space for your ever-expanding collection. Orchids are a bit like peanuts or potato chips, you can't stop with just one! If you are growing on a window sill, you have the option of expanding to more windowsills within your house, or if you are lucky and have the space, to an outdoor greenhouse.

No matter which way you grow, you are going to need to increase the density of orchids within that space as your collection grows. Be sure that you have an active pest monitoring schedule whenever you try to increase the number of orchids because the closer together they are, the easier it is for pests to move between plants. Another good thing about increasing density is that the humidity around your plants will also increase, making your plants happier and healthier. Here are some good ideas to accomplish that.

Small mounted plants can be hung on the side of existing pots of larger plants. Tolumnias are a good choice for this because the plants stay small and do not require large mounts. You will want to move them when they are flowering in order to display the flowers to best effect.

Layering plants by hanging high light plants above those that require lower light levels is another option. Plants can be hung either in baskets or in pots. Put your high-light loving plants such as Cattleyas, Vandas and Dendrobiums at the top of your growing area; then the medium light plants in middle layers and finally the low light plants such as Paphs and Phals on the bottom layer shaded by the others.

If you have a greenhouse, one of the best ideas I've seen is to tack a piece of fencing with fairly large openings to one side of the structure. This can be used to hold many mounted plants of almost any size. If you use very sturdy fencing material, you can also attach pots to the material. Use the same idea that we discussed above -- high light plants on the wall -- to shade the lower light plants. You can also use this idea to provide some cooling for a warm greenhouse if you use the west wall as your mounting area -- it will provide shade against a strong westerly sun.

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 (<http://www.bellaonline.com/site/Orchids>).

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**Next Meeting**

- March 21** ~ Iris Cohen, Making 'keikis'
- April 18** ~ Pre-Show Meeting
- May 16** ~ Ron Midgett, Mini Catts
- June** ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus
- July** ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus

- August 29** *(Tentative)* ~ Annual Picnic
- September 19** ~ Auction
- October 17** ~ Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids
- 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 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:

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|--|--|
| <b>March 21 ~</b>                        | <b>August 29 ~ Annual Picnic (tentative)</b>           |
| <b>April 18 ~</b>                        | <b>September 19 ~</b>                                  |
| <b>May 16 ~</b>                          | <b>October 17 ~</b>                                    |
| <b>June ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus</b> | <b>November 21 ~</b>                                   |
| <b>July ~ No meeting - Summer hiatus</b> | <b>December 19 ~ Holiday party - <u>Everybody!</u></b> |

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