



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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May 2016

NEXT MEETINGS

May 15, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
****Meeting is Downstairs for repotting!****

**** June-August: Summer hiatus**

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our May meeting:

**** REPOTTING CLINIC! ****

****Note: we will meet downstairs for the repotting clinic, so please use the rear entrance and parking lot!**

Meeting NOTES

This month's meeting will be our annual repotting clinic, where members will be demonstrating how to repot, mount and divide orchids of all types!

Meeting location: May 15th, we will meet **DOWNSTAIRS** in the First United Methodist Church (please use rear parking lot and rear entrance):

[First United Methodist Church](#)
53 McKinley Ave.
Endicott, NY 13760

EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the 5th day of each month to the editor.

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southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com

as it tends to cause root branching, which helps get it reestablished.) If the plant is in Semi-Hydroponic culture, it is not necessary to remove the attached medium, as it cannot decompose.

4) Using a clean sterile blade or scissors, cut off any rotted or rotting roots. Good ones will be thick, firm, and white or green, although they could be discolored by the medium. Bad ones will be black or brown, soft and mushy, or if the velamen has already completely deteriorated, they'll appear only as a central "string." Try to untangle the roots as much as possible.

5) Once the cleaning and trimming is done, I find it useful to dust the root system liberally with cinnamon, which acts to dry the wounds and is a marvelous fungicide. The same is true of places where you cut the rhizome.

6) The pot you use should have room for 2-years' growth, which you can estimate from the plant size. If the plant has 1" between pseudobulbs, and you have four bulbs with a total length of about 3 inches or so, then a five- or six-inch pot will do. Try not to overpot, as that can sometimes delay the reestablishment of the plant. For monopodial plants, select a pot that is about one- to two inches in diameter smaller than the total leaf span of the plant. (For some reason, overpotting does not appear to be as much of an issue with Semi-Hydroponics, but it still pays to stay within those guidelines.)

7) If you are using a traditional bark-based medium (even if that "bark" is coconut husk chips), place some crockery in the bottom of the pot for drainage. Those chards of the broken flower pot will work great. If you are using sphagnum, that is also a good idea, but if you're going into Semi-Hydroponics, do not add any filler to the bottom of the pot.

8) Presoak your medium. For bark, submerge it in hot water and let it stand overnight. I pre-moisten moss with hot water, and then wait until it cools before use. Moss must be damp, but not sopping. PrimeAgra gets soaked overnight as well, although hot water is not necessary. In all cases, I add one tablespoon per gallon of Dyna-Gro K-L-N and ten drops of SuperThrive per gallon of the soaking/wetting solution to spur on root growth.

9a) For sympodial plants going into bark, place and tamp down a mound of medium to the side of the pot, so it's deep at the side and shallow toward the middle. Place the "back end" of the plant right up against the side of the pot on top of the medium, with the newest growth toward the center of the pot. Add more medium to the pot, being certain to fill the spaces in-, around- and between the roots, tamping gently as you do. Continue adding medium until the rhizome is sitting right on top of it.

For monopodial plants, center a mound of medium in the pot, making it tall enough that the plant can be placed right on top of it. "Fan" the roots down and around the mound, and add and tamp medium until it's level.

Water the plant thoroughly, and let it drain. If you added stuff like K-L-N to your presoaking solution, use that for this initial watering.

9b) If using sphagnum, I prefer to fill the spaces between- and surround the roots before putting it in the pot, keeping the same up-against-the-wall or centered positioning, as appropriate for the plant. Make the whole "ball" about the size of the pot, and then stuff it in. The moss should be packed firmly enough to provide support, but not so tightly that it restricts air flow to the roots. Assuming you moistened the moss adequately, no "watering-in" is needed.

9c) If you are moving into Semi-Hydroponics, hold the plant in position and pour medium into the pot, shaking it gently to move the particles of the medium in between the roots. Keep adding until full. Fill the pot with water and let it drain, leaving the reservoir full.

10) Place the newly-repotted plant in "mild" conditions - shady, humid, and warm - and do not water it again until you see that the new roots are taking hold. Sometimes it is a good idea to place a plastic bag over the plant and pot to simulate a mini-greenhouse, if you feel that it will be difficult to provide the right conditions otherwise. If you prepared your medium correctly, and the plant is in a proper location, watering should not be needed for a few weeks, by which time your plant should be established and ready to go back to its normal growing conditions. If the medium does dry out in the interim, water sparingly, dampening, but not soaking the medium.

Courtesy of [First Ray Orchids](#)

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Upcoming Meetings

Date	Program		Date	Program
15-May-16	Repotting Session	***	18-Sep-16	Annual Auction
June-August	Summer Hiatus	***	16-Oct-16	Luis Matienzo
	Repotting Session	***	20-Nov-16	John Dunkleberger
		***	18-Dec-16	Holiday Party

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

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