



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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February 2017

NEXT MEETINGS

February 19, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
****1:00 Show Committee meeting before mtg ****

March 19, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our February meeting! Ken Hull will be presenting a talk on native orchids!!

Meeting NOTES

There will be a Show Committee meeting at 1:00, just prior to our normal meeting on February 19. All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend!

Meeting location:

[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.

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

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President's Message

Hello everyone,
 The president's message was not available at the time of publication; unfortunately, Jnx's father is very ill, and she has been extremely busy seeing to his care.

Please keep Jnx and her family in your thoughts, as they go through these difficult days ahead.

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Minutes for January

Jnx called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

The December meeting minutes were approved by the members. Jnx informed the members that her husband, Colin, will be updating the website.

New Business:

- Certificates for recognition of membership were available for all members.
- The Orchid Show was discussed, e.g.: recruiting new members, developing a new pamphlet and demonstrating planting of orchids at the show. It was suggested that we recruit younger members.
- New members were introduced.

Treasurers Report: Jane Trey reported we have \$9,444.00. The rent and insurance was paid this month.

Budget: John Zygmunt discussed some budget items. He stated that we may go in the red by the end of the year. The budget was accepted by the members.

Anne Quain talked about the vendors for the show and the need for their accommodations.

A refreshment break was then taken and raffle tickets could be purchased.

Paul Sheetz was then introduced and he gave a slide show of Encyclia orchids. He had pictures of 44 Encyclias. One orchid, E. Vitellina, was one of the prettiest. It was a delightful shade of yellow. After the slide show, there was a question and answer period.

Show Table: John Zygmunt, Pete O'Connell, Jane Trey, Luis Matienzo, and Bob Rudin showed the members their beautiful orchids. A raffle was then held.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

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<https://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/orchid-extravaganza>

There is also an organized bus trip (Swarthout) to the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens March 14-15. The bus goes through Ithaca, Dryden, Cortland, Marathon and Binghamton. The trip includes the bus roundtrip, motel with breakfast, and tickets to both the Flower show and Longwood Gardens. There are several locations where you can meet the bus. All the details are available at the link below:

<http://goswarthout.com/tours/find-a-tour-4.html?trip=484>

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Monthly Checklist for January and February



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

Courtesy of AOS; The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

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Upcoming Meetings

February 19 ~ Ken Hull

April 23 ~ Meeting/auction

March 19 ~ to be announced

May 20-21 ~ STOS Orchid Show

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

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