



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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## January 2017

### NEXT MEETINGS

**January 15, 2:00** First United Methodist Church  
**\*\*1:00 Executive Board meeting at 1:00\*\***

**February 19, 2:00** First United Methodist Church

### IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our January meeting! Paul Sheetz will be here to give a presentation on Encyclias!!

### Meeting NOTES

There will be an Executive Board meeting at 1:00, just prior to our normal meeting time of 2:00, at our January 15 meeting. All members are welcome!

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 5<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@gmail.com](mailto:southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com)

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### President's Message

Hello everyone,

Happy New Year to you all!

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for giving me this opportunity. When I joined this organization last February, I certainly never expected to be entrusted with this responsibility. I hope I can contribute to this community and its longevity. I appreciate everyone's advice, and your willingness to share your experiences with me. It takes a lot of work to make an organization last as long as this one has. I would like to thank everyone, profusely and sincerely, for their ongoing efforts.

I'd like to thank Ben. For someone who continually downplays his knowledge of orchids, he has applied an enormous amount of effort to ensure their continuing cultural presence in this region. Orchids and local enthusiasts both owe him their applause.

I am glad to be a part of the Orchid Show this year. It's a lot of work, and hectic, as I hear. We have a great team, and the cumulative experience of this society has a lot to offer to the Greater Binghamton area. I'm sure we can present an amazing show. The need for art and beauty in life cannot be understated, and our chosen obsession supplies both in large quantity. We have a gift to share.

One of my hopes for this year is to draw in a few more long term members. I know this is a tall order in this day and age, as volunteering seems to have lost all luster, but I have a few ideas. I would like to open the discussion to brainstorming. Any ideas are welcome.

I'd like to close my January note by thanking everyone again. Sincerely. I will need everyone's help and expertise. I have a lot to learn, and am very much looking forward to it.

Thanks, everyone,  
-Jnx

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### Minutes for December

Ben Cabot called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

It was suggested we start the meeting by enjoying the party food first. Thank you to all the members that brought in entrees and desserts. A free orchid raffle was then held for all the members in attendance. The meeting then resumed at 2:45 PM.

Show Table: John Zygmunt and Carol Bayles showed the members the orchids they brought in.

Treasurers Report: Jane Trey reported we have \$10,038.00.

Anne Quain then discussed the upcoming orchid show. She is trying to get judges, but so far, only one has agreed to come. It was mentioned that it is possible to have a non-judged show. We will also need vendors. The date for the Mall show is May 19, 20, and 21, 2017. John Zygmunt is currently updating the

show manual. We will also be needing liability insurance for the show. John then discussed the need for displays and help from the volunteers. Arrangements also need to be made for food for pre-show (Friday night pizza), as well as food for the judges (breakfast and lunch).

Ben showed us a copy of a Certificate of Appreciation which will be given to members as soon as they are printed.

Next was the approval of Officers:

- President - JNX
• Vice President - Carol Bayles
• Secretary - Carol Brunnabend
• Treasurer - Jane Trey

Board Members will remain the same. Ben Cabot will be added to the Board, being the Past President. JNX suggested we get an updated membership list.

An auction of left over orchids was then held. Thanks to Pete for his help.

The members thanked Ben and Lori for all their help this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Brunnabend, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that indicated we currently have an account balance of \$10,038, but some additional expenses for the Holiday party are yet to come in.

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Monthly Show Table

Due to the holiday party, there was no "formal" Show Table for our December meeting, but several members brought in their beautiful, flowering orchids to adorn our tables!

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January Speaker

Don't miss our January 15th meeting! Paul Sheetz, our friend and well-known AOS judge, will be here to give a talk on Encyclias!! Being a recognized AOS judge and an orchid grower, Paul has a wealth of knowledge on orchids of all types. He will be presenting a talk on Encyclias. Please don't miss this opportunity to learn from Paul! I'm sure he'll have an exciting and informative talk planned for us!

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## Baby It's Cold Outside!

For most parts of the country, winter is in full swing. The midwest and eastern states have received their share of snow already. The shorter and often dull days, along with cooler temperatures, affect our orchids in both good and bad ways.

First the good news; cooler temperatures and/or shorter days send the signal to many orchids that it is time to flower. Inflorescences on many Phalaenopsis and Cymbidium hybrids should be well developed by Christmas. Be on the lookout for bugs that think of your precious orchid buds as tasty winter treats. Mealybugs will be the most likely suspects. Fortunately, these soft-bodied pests can be easily controlled with one teaspoon castile soap (we use Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap) in a quart of water in a hand sprayer. This safe home treatment may require several applications every other day until control is achieved. Don't be tempted to mix any chemical control, even one as benign as soap, stronger than recommended.

It is a good idea to begin staking Phalaenopsis spikes before they get too far along. Certain Cattleya species bloom on cue for the holidays, notably Cattleya trianae and C. percivaliana (although both bloom across wider seasons in nature). It is a good idea to stake cattleyas also, as the flowers will display better. Decorating the home with blooming orchids can provide colorful accents that are always admired by guests. If you have any orchid shows nearby at this time of year, try to make the time to attend one and pick out a few plants that will bloom reliably at the holidays for years to come.

### Orchid tips for winter...

- If you are a windowsill grower, the light will be entirely different at this time of year. Assess it carefully and make any necessary adjustments. A south window may be brighter due to bare trees and the sun being lower in the sky. Watch for sunburn and move plants back from the window or add a sheer curtain to cut down the light.
- Shorter days and gloomy weather in many parts of the country can cause plants to produce soft growths that are more susceptible to pests and disease. Some orchids will not flower if they do not receive enough light. If necessary, use a growlight on a timer to provide additional light in winter.
- Orchids grow more slowly in winter and will need less water and fertilizer. Most growers cut their fertilizer back to twice a month at half strength. Monitor orchids to keep them at their proper moisture level for their type. Generally, orchids will need about half as much water in winter as they do in summer. Some orchids must have a dry winter rest in order to flower. [Click here to learn how to water your orchids.](#)
- The loss of humidity as a result of forced air heating can take its toll on your orchids. Remember, most orchids grow optimally with 60-75% humidity. If your home is especially dry, and you will know by the way your own skin reacts to winter, provide extra humidity for your orchids. A tried and true method is to set orchid pots on trays of pebbles that are filled with water; just make sure your plant is not setting in the water. Misting a couple times a day can also help.
- Winter is cold, so protect plants from drafts. If buds start falling off of a Phalaenopsis inflorescence the first thing to suspect is a drafty window (second thing is ethylene gas from a nearby heater). Do not put plants close enough to a window to touch the glass!

- If you happen to be lucky enough to live in an area where you grow your orchids outdoors year-round, don't be caught with your guard down. Even South Florida, the Gulf Coast and Southern California can experience damaging cold temperatures. Have a plan and supplies for covering or moving plants should cold weather be heading your way. Florida has an unusually wet winter. Keep an eye out for fungal infections on leaves, and especially Botrytis on flowers. Provide ample air movement and keep growing area free of plant debris.

Providing a little extra attention to your orchids at this time of year will get them through the winter in good health and bloom!!!

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### Upcoming Meetings

**January 15** ~ Paul Sheetz

**March 19** ~ to be announced

**February 19** ~ Ken Hull

**April 16** ~ Auction

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

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