



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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February 2018

NEXT MEETINGS:

February 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
****1:00 Show Committee meet prior to 2/18/18 regular meeting! ****

March 18, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our February meeting! The Show Committee will meet at 1:00, followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids will be our special guest speaker!

Meeting NOTES

****Note:** In the event of a weather emergency, please check your email the morning of the party! If nothing is received from STOS, the party is on. Likewise, those who receive the newsletter by regular mail will receive a call from one of us. If any questions, members may also call one of the Board Members.

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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food purchase for the show this year (e.g. ordering luncheon A' la Carte from Phil's Chicken house).

- Even though we typically lose money on the Show, we need to continue to sustain the Show, as that is the primary means that we attain new members
- Auctions are our main source of income; members suggested perhaps we get different kinds of plants (perhaps miniatures), since many members have limited space available
- John also pointed out that our membership is down significantly over past years. We need to sign up new members—that is our goal for this year. Jnx offered to start up a Membership committee. Anyone that is interested in joining, please let her know.
- Show Committee:
 - We currently have one vendor confirmed (Wade). Krum Sotirov is also interested—we'll need to confirm with him
 - Board approved lowering the vendor's fee for the Show from \$250 to \$150, as vendors are barely profitable, otherwise. Hard to attract vendors if they don't make any income.
 - Show Coordinators were appointed:
 - Information Table Coordinator: Jane Trey
 - Storefront Coordinator: John Zygmunt
 - Registration: Pete O'Connell
 - STOS Display: All members
 - Art Coordinator: Geof Gould
 - Advertising Coordinator: Carol Bayles
 - STOS Ribbons/Plaques: Linda Mandeville
 - We have 8 slots for displays; we discussed having member's set up their own displays. Club can do one 8-foot table; leave the other for members.
- Program Coordinator:
 - Carol Bayles reported that, at this point, we have Kim Feddersen coming in February, Wade in November, and Krum Sotirov perhaps for October.

Old Business:

- Anyone interested in joining a Membership Committee to attract new members, please see Jnx. She would like to get a committee started so that we can tackle our goal of attracting new members.

New Business:

- John discussed the 2018 Budget and Show Committee results
- Jane Trey indicated that the Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring a Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower show in March (\$80), if anyone is interested.

Treasurer's Report:

- Jane reported that we currently have \$9381.00 in our STOS account.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made and accepted to approve the December 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Show Table:

- Members showed some of their flowering beauties.
- John Zygmunt brought in a few of his "cloud forest terrariums", which will be used in coordination with his talk today.

psuedobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do

not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'
AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids. Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

