



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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

## March 2018

### NEXT MEETINGS:

**March 18, 2:00** First United Methodist Church

**April 15, 2:00** First United Methodist Church  
\*\*\*\* SPRING AUCTION!! \*\*\*\*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our March meeting! We will have a pre-show meeting, followed by a member's Q&A session!

### 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 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 Message**

I know March came in as lion, but don't worry, spring will come. The geese are flying North and the days are getting longer. Our thoughts are for warm days, sunshine, and Orchids! We are getting closer to our premier event: the Orchid Show at the Mall. It's the time for all hands on deck if we want to have a successful Show. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our pre-show meeting. It is imperative that all members who will participate in the show come to this meeting. The meeting will start at 2pm. We will have the usual agenda, including show table and raffle, but followed by meeting information instead of a program. Some of us have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare and we will update you. It's time to commit to your orchid society by signing up as a clerk for the judging and for the information table. You don't need to be knowledgeable for either. A clerk helps a judge find the orchid to be judged and also to participate in the judging. The judges are great at teaching about what makes an awarded orchid. At the information table you will find it pleasant to interact will the public and encourage them to join us. We desperately need new members! There is always a more experienced member to help will more complicated questions. We will also need members to help set up the show and the STOS show table. Your orchids in bloom will be desperately needed. After the show information, by popular demand, we will have a "bring in my sick orchid day". The purpose is for other members to try to figure out why your orchid is not doing well and make suggestions to try to fix it, or if it is too far gone, and how to avoid making the same mistake next time.

At the April 15 meeting, just prior to the show, we will have our spring auction. Pete O' Connell and I have been working hard to arrange for some nice plants, including some requested small and miniature orchids, for the auction. Hopefully, we can get some orchids in bloom that may be used in the show. The two auctions --Spring and Fall-- are our main source of income and we need your support. So join us and have fun with your orchids!

John Zygmunt-President STOS 2018

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**Minutes for February**

STOS President, John Zygmunt, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

John reported that we held a Show Committee meeting at 1:00, just prior to today's regular meeting. We discussed how plans were coming for our Show this April (to be held April 28<sup>th</sup>- April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Oakdale Mall, with set-up being Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>).

Show Committee Report:

- Show Committee:
  - o We currently have one vendor confirmed (Wade). Kim Feddersen is also considering to be a vendor—he will decide within a few weeks and will let Anne know.
  - o Advertising, everything else moving along
  - o Judges are all set, as well as housing for vendors
  - o If members wish to have their own display, please contact John Zygmunt; (members are encourages to set up a display...only a few blooming orchids are needed!).
  - o Members should see Jane Trey to sign up for the member's table and for clerking.

- Program Coordinator:
  - Next month—no speaker as of yet; we could do a question and answer session
- April Auction:
  - We'll have our Spring auction during the April meeting before our Show. Pete O'Connell will not be here for the auction, but will be ordering plants, and will coordinate with John to receive and bring them to the meeting. Luis agreed to help John conduct the auction in April in Peter's absence.
  - Auctions are our main source of income; it was suggested that we have smaller/miniature orchids offered for sale; John agreed to discuss with Pete to order a mix of 30% miniatures, 30% compact, and 30% regular-sized orchids for the auction.
- Membership: We need to sign up new members at the Show!
- Facebook: Ben & Marissa were asked to add our Show and Auction to facebook;
  - Members—please be sure to "Like" and "Share" the STOS Facebook posts!

#### Old Business:

- Ben Cabot will 'resurrect' the Member's Survey that we conducted a few years, and will present the results to the members to see areas where we can improve our meetings and make them more beneficial to members, and hopefully, attract new members to join.

#### New Business:

- 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 \$9499.00 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.

#### Raffle and Refreshments:

- Before proceeding into our featured program, we broke for some delicious, light refreshments and conducted our member raffle. There were many wonderful items in the raffle this month; thanks to many of you members for so generously bringing in plants/items to raffle!

#### Featured Presentation:

We were fortunate to have a wonderful presentation by Kim Feddersen from Fair Orchids, on Slipper Orchids. Kim discussed the 5 different groups:

1. Cypripedium - protected orchids; cannot pick—require very specific growing environment/soil
2. Selenipedium - genus which grows up to 15' tall
3. Mexipedium - from Southwest Mexico; sequential on the same spike, with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " flower
4. Paphiopedilum - popular lady-slipper type, with "pouch"
- Pragmipedium - genus native to South America. and resemble Paphiopedilums in flower form and plant habit. Phrags grow naturally in humid, boggy environments in fast draining media. They require medium high light and good air movement.







When flowers have a white lip with magenta splotch in the middle, they are often called "semi-alba" or erroneously, var. *randii*.

Many consider the large showy flowers of *Encyclia cordigera* to be the finest in the genus. They have an intoxicating fragrance that varies slightly from plant to plant, but some say the pink-lipped flowers smell like roses. Flowers can last for well over a month. The species has received over 40 AOS awards, both for quality and for culture. The best flowers have a broad, flat, skirt-shaped lip with saturated color for the pink-lipped form, and a well-defined magenta central splotch for the semi-albas. *Encyclia cordigera* has been used as a parent both within the genus and with other members of the *Cattleya* alliance to create intergeneric hybrids such as the legendary *Epicattleya* (syn. *Catyclia*) Florida, registered by Lewis Vaughn in 1965 (*C. dowiana* x *Enc. cordigera*).



Lindena's plate in *Lindenia* depicts the Brazilian species, *Encyclia randii*.

*Encyclia cordigera* is easy to grow under a wide range of conditions. Its natural habitats are low-elevation oak forests that are fairly dry and bright. It can be grown in the intermediate temperature range but will do equally well in warmer conditions. The best flowering will occur if plants are grown bright but they will grow and flower under as little as 2000 foot candles. Plants can be potted in a coarse open media but if

you have a tendency to overwater, a mount or basket is a preferable option and will maintain healthy roots better. This species does not tolerate stale, dank potting media. The tightly clustered pseudobulbs can be as big as an onion on healthy plants but a mature plant does not take up much space and can be accommodated even in small collections. Like all encyclias, be alert for scale between those tightly packed pseudobulbs. It can get well established before you notice, and then it is more difficult to eradicate. Keeping dry sheaths peeled away makes inspection easier.

Courtesy- AOS Publications Committee

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**Upcoming Meetings**

**March 18 ~ Pre-show/Q&As**  
**April 15 ~ Spring Auction!**  
**April 28-29 ~ STOS Show! (setup 27<sup>th</sup>)**  
**May 20 ~ Repotting Clinic**

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

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