

# Southern Tier Orchid Society

#### **Board of Directors**

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#### Secretary

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## **AOS** Representative

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Show Chair Anne Tinker

Web Page

http://www.storchidsociety.com/

# January 2014

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

January 19, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
\*\*1:00 Board of Directors/Show Committee meet prior
to 1/19/14 regular meeting! \*\*

February 16, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

# IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our January meeting! Our guest speaker will be Krum Sotirov, giving us a presentation of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, London England.

# Meeting NOTES

This month's guest speaker will be Krum Sotirov with a presentation of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, London England, and will include a discussion on Orchid Diseases and Pest Control.

Come one, come all!! This is a treat not to be missed!

# **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the  $5^{\text{th}}$  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

# President's Message

\*\*Happy New Year 2014\*\* to you all!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday, and wish you a very happy and healthy year ahead! I look forward to serving as President in 2014, and working with you in the upcoming year to make our club as successful and enjoyable as possible! I value the friendship and camaraderie of each and every one of you, and would like to see us work together to make our organization rewarding to every member.

I want to send a special "thank you" to John Zygmunt for the <u>outstanding</u> job he did serving as President last year! He stepped in to fill the gap as treasurer early in the year, and pulled our finances together; he spent countless hours creating the Show Manual, which will be a valuable aid in planning and conducting our Annual Orchid Show in the mall; he obtained the cabinet for setting up our library so that our resources are accessible and available to all. Thank you John, for your hard work in 2013! Your shoes will be hard to fill!

I would like to encourage all members to participate in future meetings to make our club and also this year's show a success. We'll need to work diligently this year to increase our membership and attendance at our monthly meetings. I welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving our club, and keeping our meetings well-attended.

Prior to our next general meeting on January 19th at 1:00, we will have Show Committee and Board Meeting. The bylaws require that we meet no fewer than two times a year--Sept. and Jan. One item on the agenda will be the budget for 2014. The Show Committee and Executive Board meeting is open to the general membership. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting is welcome!

A reminder to all that the annual dues are due. This year it is \$20 per family. An application form is available on the website. I will also bring forms at the next meeting.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Bob Howe for getting wonderful speakers for our meetings! Getting speakers is difficult, especially in the winter. Please note that if weather does not permit, members will be notified by e-mail or phone (if they don't have e-mail); so if the weather is extreme, please check your e-mail before the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on January  $19^{th}$ ! Let's get this year off to a great start! Respectfully,

Linda Mandeville

STOS President

# Minutes for December 15

The December meeting of the STOS was called to order by our President, John Zygmunt at approximately 2:20 PM. He asked for a motion and second to accept last month's minutes. The motion was accepted and seconded.

John announced to the club that a well-respected and long-time member of our club, Mr. Harry O'Connell passed away on Friday, December 13. Our sincere condolences go out to Pete and Bill and the rest of his family. A card will be send around for members to sign.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jane Trey who spoke about the current financial status of our club. Our treasurer indicated we currently have an account balance of \$8,145, but some additional expenses for the Holiday party are yet to come.

Dawna Cole presented the slate of candidates for officers for 2014. All candidates were voted on and accepted by the club. The new officers for 2014 are: President-Linda Mandeville, Vice President-Bob Howe, Secretary-Carol Browne, Treasurer-Jane Trey, AOS Representative-Pete O'Connell, Board Members-Dawna Cole (2 year term) and Bob Rudin (3 year term), Show Committee-Anne Tinker, Library-Dawna Cole and Carol Vargason, Web Site-Son Tran

New Business was then discussed:

2014 Dues are now payable. John urged members to please try to have their dues paid up either this month or next.

Mr. Zygmunt announced an opportunity for our members to join the Syracuse Orchid Society (CNYOS) in attending the South East Pennsylvania Orchid Show (SEPOS) on Saturday, April 14. CNYOS has chartered a bus, and they have open seats available, and are willing to pick up anyone from our club that is interested in going. The bus will cost \$69 per person, and they would pick us up at the Oakdale Mall at approximately 8 a.m. on April 12. Please contact Sue Finger, jandsfinger@aol.com, (315-458-3040) if you are interested in attending.

Our President, John Zygmunt then continued with the rest of the meeting's agenda. There will be a Board of Directors and Show Committee meeting at 1:00, prior to our regular meeting on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. John will present the 2014 budget.

Anne Tinker, our Show Chair Person, gave us an update on this year's Show information. Margaret Bridge (vendor) may not come this year, as she has a conflict with the date. Annie's Orchids may possibly be a vendor that we could have in the event Margaret cannot show.

We ended the official business part of the meeting and proceeded with the "banquet" portion of our meeting, by enjoying the food and drinks provided by society and its members in attendance. Those members whose dues were paid up for 2013 each received a free orchid, courtesy of the STOS. Happy Holidays to our members and their families!

While we enjoyed the Holiday fare, those members who brought their orchid(s) for us to admire, showed them to us and spoke a little about their individual orchids. Those members were: John Zygmunt, Carol Vargason, and Bob Rudin. Raffle numbers were called next and lastly, members who wished to, bid on the "leftover" orchids that were up for auction.

We wished each other "Happy Holidays" and with that, our 2013 Season came to a close around 4:20 PM.

Our first meeting for 2014 is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Mandeville for Carol Browne

# Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that indicated we currently have an account balance of \$8,145, but some additional expenses for the Holiday party are yet to come in.

# Monthly Show Table

On this month's show table, we had a lovely display of orchids, thanks to the following growers. Parentage is given based upon information provided by the grower.

#### JOHN ZYGMUNT

1. Blc. Shining Harmony 'Volcano Queen'

#### **BOB RUDIN**

1. Blc. Red at Night 'Sailors Delight' x Raye Holmes 'Newberry'

#### CAROL VARGASON

1. Paph. Venustum

# Featured Speaker for January

Don't miss this months' meeting (January 19<sup>th</sup>)! We will feature Mr. Krum Sotirov. His topic will be a computerized slide presentation of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, London England. Mr. Sotirov was born in Bulgaria and emigrated to London to begin his internship at "the Gardens".

His travels studying orchids has taken him to Southeast Asia, Nepal, and Australia. Mr. Sotirov has given presentations in London, California, Texas, Montana, Michigan, and also at his home society, CNYOS. He will also be discussing Orchid Diseases and Pest Control. He will be bringing orchids and baskets for sale! Be sure to attend, and bring anyone interested in orchids -friends or family!!

Monthly Checklist for January/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.

#### **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 rockwool 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 Ned Nash and James Rose on aos.org

# **Upcoming Meetings**

January 19 ~ Krum Satirov February 16 ~ to be announced March 16 ~ to be announced
April 26/27 ~ STOS Orchid Show!

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

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# Refreshment Volunteers

More than one person may sign up for an individual meeting so that the cost and work can be shared among members. Please note that volunteers are still needed for several upcoming meetings, so be sure to sign up if you haven't already. Just let Anne Tinker know if you can help. Her contact info is on the front page.

Current refreshments list includes:

January 19 ~ We Need Your Help! February 16 ~ We need your help! March 16 ~ We need your help!

April 26/27 ~ STOS Orchid Show