



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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Anne Tinker

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

## February 2014

### NEXT MEETINGS

February 16, 2:00 First United Methodist Church  
**\*\*1:30 Show Committee meet prior to 2/16/14 regular meeting! \*\***

March 16, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

### IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our February meeting! Our guest speaker will be Ryan Georgia. Also, John Zygmunt will be bringing in lots of "goodies" for our Raffle!!

### Meeting NOTES

This month's guest speaker will be Ryan Georgia, owner of Native Exotics" in Ithaca/Trumansburg. Mr. Georgia will be giving us a presentation on "In Vitro Propagation of Orchids"!

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<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

WOW!! Has it been a cold, snowy winter!! It reminds me of winters from long ago—very cold and lots of snow! Thankfully, we'll be through February shortly, with Spring right around the corner!!

Prior to this month's meeting (February 16th), we will have brief Show Committee at 1:30. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! We'll need lots of "helping hands" at the Show; anyone who can pitch in, with even an hour or two of their time, would be greatly appreciated! No experience is necessary!

We are fortunate this month to welcome Ryan Georgia, owner of Native Exotics in Ithaca/Trumansburg. Mr. Georgia will be giving us a presentation on "In Vitro Propagation of Orchids"! This should be a very interesting topic! I am certainly anxious to hear his talk!

For our February meeting, John Zygmunt is planning to bring in roughly ten miniature orchids (worth \$20-\$25 retail) , some supplies such as bark, aliflor, pots, labels, orchid clips, a few repot kits (pot plus medium) and mounting kits (small cedar board or cork plus sphagnum moss plus fishing line). There will be enough items that everyone who buys a raffle ticket will most likely go home with a treasure! \*\*Please note that John is doing this at no cost to the club, and will help raise money to cover our club expenses, and will greatly help in our attempt to balance the STOS budget for 2014. THANK YOU, John, for your generous contribution to the club—in so many ways!

Also, just 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.

Please note that if the weather does not cooperate for our meeting, 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 February 16<sup>th</sup>! I know it's sometimes tough to get 'up and out' in the winter, but it sure helps ones' spirits to brighten their day with beautiful orchids and great friends!

Respectfully,

Linda Mandeville

STOS President

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### Minutes for January 19

The first scheduled meeting for the new year was called to order by our new president, Linda Mandeville, at approximately 2:10 pm. President Mandeville wished members, about 25 strong today, a Happy New Year. John Zygmunt, our past president, was thanked for all that he accomplished on behalf of the STOS in 2013.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and seconded. The treasurer's report was next. Jane Trey, noted the balance is \$7,616.00.

Linda, our president, mentioned the topics of discussion for the Show Committee Meeting which was held at 1:00 prior to today's meeting. Subjects discussed consisted of the committee's progress, to date, for this year's STOS Show which is being chaired by Anne Tinker. We will have a meeting in April on the sixth (6th) of April, instead of the normal date of the third (3rd) Sunday in April. Our STOS Show will be on the last weekend in April and it was decided to conduct a meeting on the 6th in order to be sure we are in good shape for the Show on the weekend of Saturday, the 26th and Sunday, the 27th.

We talked, next, about what can be done to increase working capital for our society. We discussed cutting expenses for the show as well as increasing the bottom line. It was noted that the yearly membership is \$20. Members are asked to be current in their dues.

Our president mentioned that there are a few seats on the bus (\$69) for the CNYOS Orchid Show being held in Philadelphia. Anyone interested in attending can garner information from Linda.

At this time, Bob Rudin asked if the STOS members would be interested in making a donation to the Episcopal Church, in memory of Mr. Harry O'Connell. Mrs. O'Connell was also a long time and well-loved member and should be included in this honorarium. The motion was moved and seconded. Our sympathy to his family.

Mr. Bob Howe, who currently holds the position of Vice President, needs to be removed from the board. The by-laws state that he can hold only one such position. A replacement for the board was needed. Anne Tinker was suggested. Her nomination was approved and seconded.

Our own, Peter O'Connell, will speak at the Montrose Garden Club. He will graciously bring some orchids of his own to the club and has volunteered to donate the money from the sale to STOS. Thank you, Pete.

We broke next for the raffle. Refreshments, generously supplied by many members, were enjoyed by all.

The Show Table provided a beautiful variety of lovely orchids. John Zygmunt showed about a dozen--many miniatures. Dave Clemens showed one beauty. Linda Mandeville showed two.

Mr. Bob Howe introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Krum Sotirov. Originally from Bulgaria, Mr. Sotirov was delightful and informative. Mr. Sotirov wears many hats. Among his credentials, it should be noted that he is an EMT at Fort Drumm. When he is in London, he interns at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, London, England. He has travelled to Australia, South East Asia and has lectured in England and the United States. His home base, for our purposes, is the Central New York Orchid Society.

As Krum Sotirov began imparting his knowledge of botanicals, he informed us that the Royal Botanical Gardens are different from what we would expect. It houses the largest privately owned collection in the world. It is not a commercial project. The public can wander through the many acres of the Botanical Gardens. You are free to explore on your own. The gardens contain recently discovered as well as mislabeled and smuggled botanicals. If one is looking to research DNA sequences, for example, an excellent source is the Royal Botanical Website.

Mr. Sotirov showed slides of "botanical houses" at the gardens. Some of those mentioned, including the Queen's Cottage (built 100 years ago), has 30 or 40 rooms. We saw slides of The Pagoda, Chokushimon, which boasts foxes, badgers and peacocks running free. There is the art collection of the Marian Art Museum (300 or 400 paintings) from around the world. We saw the Palm House whose design was copied by greenhouses around the world. It is cast iron and glass and its round shape protects from wind and

storm damage. We saw the Alpine House which houses plants that thrive in cold conditions. Next we saw the Orangery, which was designed to grow oranges; it also houses an expensive restaurant.

There is an American design which houses a temperate condition, a tree top walk. An evolution concept is featured showing plants as well as butterflies and birds.

Mr. Sotirov spoke of the history of the gardens. About two thousand botanists from the gardens go around the world. Collections include about six thousand orchid species from, among other places, include the United States, Europe and Africa. Of course, Charles Darwin's works and species are included in this invaluable collection.

We saw prized botanical drawings, as there was no photography at the time. It was mentioned that one of the first orchid hybrids was a "Disa Kewdior". We saw a slide of orchid pollination which can be further viewed on the website. The Princess of Wales Observatory features ten different climate zones. That, of course, was a lead-in to: "You must grow orchids in their own climate." We were advised to research what country the orchids we wish to grow comes from and then adhere to that "recipe" for a successful end. It was mentioned that the perfect condition to grow an orchid is how it grows in nature. If that "recipe" is followed, it is thought they will live forever.

Mr. Sotirov also told us that some orchids (cattlyea), for example, are food sources in Africa. There is danger of extinction of some species, because of the starvation in parts of Africa.

Our speaker ended his presentation with a note that: "Kew Gardens is about plants in general." Kew was originally set up for medicinal purposes and has evolved into what it is today. He encourages a website visit (available through the STOS website as well as an "onsite" visit!)

With thanks to our speaker, Mr. Krum Sotirov, the meeting came to conclusion at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Browne

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## Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that indicated we currently have an account balance of \$7,616.00.

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### Monthly Show Table

**Linda Mandeville**

- 1) Den. Nora's Charm  
2) **Stenorrhynchos speciosus** 'C. H.' x sib (per Kew World Checklist of Monocotyledons)

**John Zygmunt**

- 1) *Masd. ventricosa*

- 2) *Stelis ornata*
- 3) *Dendrochilum parvulum*
- 4) **Tubecentron** Hsinying Girl (per RHS Orchid Hybrid Registry)
- 5) *Oncidium gramineum*
- 6) *Diodonopsis erinacea*
- 7) Paph. Venus Knight
- 8) Paph. spicerianum
- 9) *Ascocenda* (Ascda.) Lenachai x Fuchs Delight - per RHS Orchid Hybrid Registry, the cross Vanda Fuchs Delight (seed parent) x Vanda Lenachai (pollen parent) is registered as **Vanda Sawita Delight**. This hybrid was registered by S.Ditee on 22/03/2000.
- 10) *Dracula inaequalis* (per Kew)
- 11) Paph. spicerianum 'Long Neck' x Gege Hughes 'Honest Moon' - this cross not registered with RHS

Changes in taxonomy, as well as difficulties with spelling, necessitate that authorities in the study of orchids be consulted. Hence names of hybrids - those which are not of Greek or Latin derivation, such as Nora's Charm - have been checked against the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registry. It is not the hybrid name that changes, but the genus..

On the other hand, names of species – those which are completely of Greek or Latin origin -- have been searched in the Kew World Checklist of *Monocotyledons*. Parts of plant names appearing in **boldface** represent corrections in spelling or additional information found in these databases that may be of interest to the grower.

Paula Matienzo

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## Featured Speaker for February

Don't miss this month's meeting (February 16th)! Our February speaker this month will be Ryan Georgia, a friend of our STOS member Ken Hull. Originally from Binghamton, Ryan now resides in Ithaca, and is the owner of an orchid enterprise named "Native Exotics". The laboratory is in Ithaca, with a nursery in Trumansburg and specializes in Paphs, Phrags, and Cypropedulums. Ryan's business usually is internet related, however; if any individual makes an appointment, Ryan will make accommodations to fulfill that customer's wishes.

Using a proven scientific approach, Ryan's talk to will be "In Vitro Propagation of Orchids." In addition, Ryan will bring Orchids for sale! Please be sure to attend, and bring anyone interested in orchids -friends or family!!

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## Intergeneric Hybrids



Vascostylis Prapawan 'Tanzanite'  
AM/AOS is a combination of three  
orchid genera: Ascocentrum x  
Rhynchostylis x Vanda

One unique feature of orchids is the viability of hybrids not only between species, but between related genera. Traditionally, one of the definitions of a species is that it is reproductively isolated from its closest relatives. For example, real human-chimp hybrids are not seen. Because the orchid family is so recently evolved, physiological barriers to interspecific (between species) and intergeneric (between genera) hybrids are not well developed; seasonal, geographic and pollinator barriers suffice.

Perhaps as much because early orchid growers had not learned what constituted a valid species or genus as from a spirit of adventure, it was seen more than 100 years ago that hybridizing within the orchid family did not follow the same rules as in other groups of flowering plants.

By the beginning of this century, nomenclature rules had developed into the uniform naming of intergeneric hybrids. Hybrids between two genera are always a contraction of the two generic names, such as *Brassocattleya* (*Brassavola* x *Cattleya*), *Odontonia* (*Odontoglossum* x *Miltonia*) and *Ascocenda* (*Ascocentrum* x *Vanda*). Usually, hybrids with three genera in the background are also contractions. *Brassolaeliocattleya* (*Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya*) and *Vascostylis* (*Vanda* x *Ascocentrum* x *Rhynchostylis*) are two of these. However, hybrid genera with three genera in their background can also end with -ara, which is used for hybrid genera of four or more genera. The genus name is derived from

the originator's name (or choice of name) with an -ara suffix \_ Potinara (Brassavola x Laelia x Cattleya x Sophronitis) or Vuylstekeara (Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Cochlioda).

Unfortunately, the genetic composition of a hybrid genus cannot always give all the cultural hints that a beginner might want. A classic example is the myth that all Cattleya hybrids containing Laelia are more temperature tolerant than pure-bred cattleyas. The type thought of by most in this myth have only Laelia purpurata in their background, and then only several generations back. Another example might be that all ascocendas are compact growing because of the Ascocentrum background. Again, this influence may be so far back that the plants themselves are indistinguishable from a regular standard Vanda. Horticulturally these are sometimes known as Vandacenda, although the use of that name is technically unjustified.

Courtesy of American Orchid Society, aos.org

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### Upcoming Meetings

**February 16** ~ to be announced

**April 26/27** ~ STOS Orchid Show!

**March 16** ~ to be announced

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:

**February 16** ~ We need your help!

**March 16** ~ We need your help!

**April 26/27** ~ STOS Orchid Show