



Southern Tier Orchid Society

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May/June 2017

NEXT MEETINGS:

August 27, 2:00 MEMBER PICNIC!!

****Member's Picnic at Anne's! ****

September 17, 2:00 First United Methodist Church

****Annual Orchid Auction!! ****

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our September 17th meeting:

**** ORCHID AUCTION!! *****

This will be a wonderful opportunity to obtain some flowering beauties for your collection!!

Meeting NOTES

September meeting is our Orchid Auction, and will be held downstairs at the church, so please park in the rear parking lot and use the back entrance of the Church:

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 5th 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



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Annual STOS Auction in September!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! September 17th is the date for our STOS annual Orchid Auction! Spread the word to your friends!! This is a great opportunity for all to add some beautiful new orchids to your collections! (**Many different varieties, that cannot be found at local greenhouses, Lowes', etc.!) The meeting/auction will be held DOWNSTAIRS in the church, so please park in the back parking lot and use the rear entrance. Stay tuned for more information to follow in our September Newsletter!

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Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this

month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Cattleya purpurata, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be

able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

Courtesy of AOS.org - The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

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Upcoming Meetings

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| June-August ~ Summer hiatus | September 17 ~ Orchid Auction! |
| August 27 ~ Summer Picnic at Anne Quains' | October 15 ~ Speaker to be announced |

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

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