

SIOS

DECEMBER, 2009
Volume XXXII, Issue 12

NEWSLETTER

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



Next meeting December 15th 6:00pm

A Message from John

Hello Friends,

Happy Holidays!

As you may have heard, Yes, I did have a "Cardiac Event" a few weeks ago.

I am doing fine. I appreciate all the calls and best wishes.

Again let me "Stress" (bad choice of word!)

I am feeling fine and will see you all Tuesday night with cash in one hand and a paper plate in the other.

I implore all of you to join us. This is a very important "FUND RAISER"

Brings all your friends family members co workers strangers we'll welcome anyone (except for THOSE TWO!!)

We should begin the buffet at 6pm. Please bring something to contribute to the dinner table. Norman try to arrive early... I hate eating shrimp with cheesecake.

Frank Ariosta has ordered some beautiful plants...they would make wonderful gifts even stocking stuffers. Forget the scarves, ties, gift cards, gift baskets...and we do not collect SALES TAX!

So, my friends, please join me on Tuesday evening.

Remember there will be no show table.

Till I see you then,

Be Well and be GOOD!

~John

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NEWSLETTER

Kathleen Ruoti, Editor
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The SIOS meets on the
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm
at
All Saints Episcopal Church,
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

Gerry Cassella's new information in Florida
5226 Europa Drive, Unit E
Boynton Beach, FL 33437
561-732-6826 orcgerry@live.com

SIOS ORCHID AUCTION AND POT LUCK BUFFET

Tuesday, December 15, 6:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY



Show Table Tallies for November

GREENHOUSE

Frank Ariosta - 55
Dave O'Dell - 12
Colman Rutkin - 39

WINDOWSILL

Roy Fox - 12
Amy Trautwein - 11

LIGHTS

Patrick Cammarano - 4
Olga Federico - 5
Joseph Schwab - 20



Amateur Potpourri - Brown Sheaths in the Fall

Mary Noble, Jacksonville, FL
American Orchid Society Bulletin, November, 1949

About this time of the year my mail brings many questions about brown sheaths. Why does a sheath turn brown?....

Is it serious? ... How can I make it green again? ...Will it injure the buds? ...



Dried sheaths on *Cattleya (Guarianthe) skinneri*. November 10, 2009.

A look around the greenhouse in the fall shows brown sheaths on a number of species, and unless you are prepared for this development, it can be very startling. For instance, *Cattleya skinneri*¹ and the fall-blooming *C. skinneri* var. *autumnalis*² both have brown sheaths now. It hasn't been many years since I became frantic because the lovely fat sheath on my *C. skinneri* var. *autumnalis* was changing color just before it was scheduled to bloom. In an effort to be helpful, I opened the brown sheath. Inside was a short little green sheath. The buds - 8 of them- emerged from the little green sheath in due time, but rotted before attaining even half their natural size. I learned the hard way that the sheaths of *C. skinneri* var. *autumnalis* are supposed to turn brown. It's the nature of the beast. Incidentally, this *C. skinneri* var. *autumnalis* is none other than the plant we've been calling *C. deckeri*³ for the past 100 years. It has been reclassified as a variety recently, but it is a little hard to get accustomed to the new name.

The species *C. skinneri* has completed its growth already though it won't bloom until March, and the sheaths are brown. Likewise, *C. aurantiaca*⁴, the species with the petite bright orange flowers that come along in February, has finished growing and the sheaths have changed color. This plant loves the sun, and hangs on the fence next to *Vanda* Miss Joaquim where the light is the strongest.



Cattleya trianae buds showing in a sheath that will be completely dry by the time flowering occurs. November 10, 2009.

Cattleya mossiae is another one. It has been growing all summer and will now rest - if you let it - until blooming time, and the sheaths are already dark. *Cattleya trianae* is more versatile. Sheaths on bulbs that were made up early in the spring generally turn brown before blooming, but if the plant makes additional bulbs in the fall, these sheaths usually remain green during the short period before they bloom.

This is not a complete list, but just a few examples of the orchids that naturally turn their sheaths brown. The hybrids that have these species for parents generally inherit the characteristic also.

However, a brown sheath may be cause for alarm, and the way to tell is to give it the finger test. If the sheath is dry and crisp, the buds will probably be ok. But, if the sheath feels damp and soggy, it is not good. The buds cannot develop inside of a sheath that feels "mushy" to the touch.

The best remedy for this condition is to open the sheath and let it dry out. There is the chance that the buds will be damaged without their natural protection, but there is sure disaster in a damp sheath.

The double sheath is characteristic of many modern hybrids. Sometimes inexperienced growers become excited about the poor little buds having to push their way through two sheaths. But as long as the sheaths are in good condition, the buds can do it. Buds grow slower and develop better within a sheath and this protective covering should not be removed unless absolutely necessary. It is a great temptation to help the flowers along, but patience pays in better blooms.

republished November, 2009

Would all Judges and anyone else donating plants, please bring their auction plants to Judging early on Saturday, December 20, 2008. Plants should be properly labeled which would be of great help to the Auctioneer.

If able, please bring a plate for the lunch to be enjoyed by both the Judges and our guests.

NORTHEAST JUDGING CENTER

Annual Judge's Auction

Annual Judge's Auction

A ONCE A YEAR OPPORTUNITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

AT 10:00 AM

**THE HAMPTON INN
ELMSFORD, NY**

A ONCE A YEAR OPPORTUNITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

AT 10:00 AM

**THE HAMPTON INN
ELMSFORD, NY**

*We appreciate the generosity of all our donors,
and, their support of the Northeast Judging Center.*

Rita Cohen
1433 Kew Avenue
Hewlett, NY 11557
Phone: (516) 374-6426
NORTHEAST JUDGING CENTER

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**NORTHEAST JUDGING
CENTER**

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DEEP CUT ORCHID SOCIETY
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Sun., 9 AM - 4:30 PM

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STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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1306 Arden Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10312-4901



ADDRESS LABEL

Orchid Related Websites and Information

ORCHIDS ON THE WEB

For all you web surfers here are some sites you might enjoy visiting:

orchidweb.org

This is the AOS official website. It is a wealth of information on all things ORCHID

orchidmall.com

Looking for plants to buy? Here's a resource for you. Listing vendors from all over the world.

repotme.com

Everything you need to supply your orchid collection.

That's a start. Happy surfing!!