

# SIOS

SEPTEMBER, 2011  
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## NEWSLETTER

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### NEWSLETTER

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

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



## Next meeting September 20th 7pm

### *A Message from John*

Hello my friends,

The handful of you who missed our Snug Harbor outing last week, missed out big time. What a great time we had. Patrick and Ron did an amazing job organizing the event. When I asked Patrick to make this happen, I knew I asked the right man. Ron worked his little butt off. Not one hitch that I am aware of (actually I was just sitting all day long watching almost ALL of our members having a party).

The BBQ was just the right thing to do. My thanks to the new "lady of leisure" Barbara Foley who was an amazing, (and Lovely) Grill Master and all the members that brought goodies to add to the feast. You guys repotted 175 plants!

I will talk more about this at our next meeting (and talk about other things until I'm asked to "shut up and sit down").

Next meeting brings us Larry from Deep Cut. You loved him before and you will love his talk this time too.

That's Tuesday the 20th.

I'll see you then.

~John

### SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Larry Desiano  
President, DCOS  
Topic:  
Orchids everyone  
should grow.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.SIOOnline.com](http://www.SIOOnline.com)

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Staten-Island-Orchid-Society/110927662275980>

# SHOW TABLE TALLIES FOR AUGUST

## WINDOWSILL

Michael Corace - 27  
Sharon Jaffee - 17  
Kathleen Ruoti - 5  
Amy Trautwein - 22

## GREENHOUSE

Colman Rutkin - 23  
David O'Dell - 26

## LIGHTS

Renee Lichtman - 16



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Silva Orchids** will host a **Culture Workshop** on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Four talks will cover the full range of orchid culture from basic orchid care and potting, to growing on a windowsill under lights or in a greenhouse. We will also cover culture of the late summer and fall which is critical to good growth and flowering.

1. Basic Orchid Culture 9:30 to 10:30 AM Tony Silva will cover the proper environmental conditions and general care of orchids. A brief Q&A will follow.
2. Late Summer, Fall Orchid Care 11:00 AM til Noon. Joe Silva will discuss this very important time of the year where our focus shifts from growing to finishing and ripening our orchids for maximum results.  
BBQ we will serve a barbeque lunch for \$5 (RSVP BBQ only to help us prepare)
3. Growing Orchids Indoors and 1:00 til 2:00 PM Steve Fowler will discuss just how he grows orchids indoors on windowsills and under lights. He will also talk of his experience summering orchids outdoors. Steve has been growing orchids since 1976 and had a plant business of his own. He has also been a mainstay here at Silva Orchids having worked for us at the nursery and also manning the booth at our various shows and helping with our exhibits. The talk will be followed by a short Q&A
4. The last part of our culture workshop will cover orchid pests & diseases, how to divide, repotting demonstrations, media, and how to mount various orchids.

We will have a full range of orchid supplies such as orchid bark, pots, mixes, NZ sphagnum moss, insect spray, fertilizers, and lights for growing indoors.

Good Growing Tony, Silva Orchids

Just a reminder that the Sandpiper Orchid Society will be having its **Annual Orchid Auction on Saturday September 17th at the Galloway Library on Jimmy Leads Rd, Galloway, NJ**. Previewing of plants begins at 10:15 AM with the Orchid Auction beginning at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to have a fun filled morning and add to your orchid collection.

Please forward to any and all members of the DCOS that you think might be interested in attending. Sandpiper has included Deep Cuts Auction information in the last 2 Newsletters and will do the same in this coming months issue. I hope to have a "Plant List" available by Sept. 15th, if not sooner, for your members.

*Sandpiper Orchid Society*

**Annual Orchid Auction**

**OPEN to the PUBLIC**

When: Saturday, September 17th

Time: Doors open for Previewing at 10:15 AM  
Auction begins at 10:30 AM

Where: Galloway Library  
306 East Jimmie Leads Road  
Galloway, NJ

For additional information, email: [SandpiperOS@gmail.com](mailto:SandpiperOS@gmail.com), or call 609-693-4174  
NOTE: Orchids pictured are not necessarily included in this Auction.

**1st ANNUAL SIOS BARBEQUE AND  
ORCHID REPOTTING PARTY AT  
SNUG HARBOR**



**COME AND  
GET IT!**

*Even though Barbara got smoke in her eyes,  
she flipped the best burgers in town!  
They were DelicioooooSOooo GOOD*

*Continued from:* *Insect and Arthropod Pest Identification and Management* Editor: Ronald Oetting  
UGA/CAES/Griffin Campus Handout for Southeast Greenhouse Conference

## SLUGS AND SNAILS

### Description and Biology

Snails and slugs move by gliding along on a muscular "foot." This muscle constantly secretes mucus, which later dries to form the silvery "slime trail" that signals the presence of these pests. Snails and slugs are most active at night and on cloudy or foggy days. On sunny days they seek hiding places out of the heat and sun; often the only clues to their presence are their silvery trails and plant damage.

Slugs and snails are very bothersome pests in the landscape and can be just as troublesome in the greenhouse. There are several species of slugs and snails that frequent greenhouses. The most noteworthy species that has been the subject of quarantines of pot plants is the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*) which is probably most common in California. In Florida three species of slugs are very destructive garden and greenhouse pests: gray garden slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*), spotted garden slug (*Limax maximus*), and the tawny garden slug (*Limax flavus*). Both slugs and snails are members of the mollusk phylum and are similar in structure and biology, except snails have an external spiral shell. Slugs are easily recognized by their soft, unsegmented bodies, dorsally covered completely or in part by a tough leathery skin (mantle). The head has a pair of upper tentacles bearing eyes, and a pair of shorter olfactory ones. Snails have a spiral shell which protects them from changes in temperature and enables them to tolerate warmer and drier conditions. Most native species are solitary in habit and do little or no damage. The introduced slugs and snails are usually gregarious and may cause serious damage as they build up large populations.

As slugs mature, they become functional males and then true hermaphrodites. Older slugs are females. Slugs commonly cross fertilize and may have elaborate courtship dances. They lay gelatinous eggs in clusters of 20 to 30 on the soil in concealed and moist places. Eggs are round to oval, usually colorless, and hatch in 10 to 21 days. When they hatch young slugs are active, crawl and feed if the temperature and humidity conditions are right. When the temperature rises, slugs crawl down to their hiding places on the soil surface to rest and absorb water through their skin. With the fall in temperature, they become active and begin to forage. The ideal temperature is about 65°F. Adults live more than one year.

### Feeding Damage and Symptoms

Slugs and snails feed on a variety of living plants as well as on decaying plant matter. The feeding injury is similar to chewing insects. They chew irregular holes with smooth edges. The feeding is usually at night so it may be hard to find them feeding on the plant. On wet and humid days they will feed during the daylight hours. They also chew fruit and young plant bark. Young seedlings are often completely destroyed. A telltale sign of slug feeding is the slime trail left on the surface of plants. This is a good way to quickly differentiate between slug and insect feeding.

### Detection and Sampling

Slugs and snails can be detected by the presence of irregular holes in leaves and the slime trails left from their movement over surfaces. They like to hide under boards and flower pots and if you lift and look under pots on greenhouse benches you can usually find them hiding during the day. Also, look under loose boards and any other item they might hide under in the growing area. You can trap slugs and snails by placing a board that has pieces of wood attached to the underside such that it is elevated off of the surface slightly so the pest can easily crawl under the board. Beer has also been used to attract slugs and snails.

## Management

**Chemical Control.** There are two chemicals that are commonly used against slugs and snails: metaldehyde and methiocarb. Commercial metaldehyde baits are available which can be used in greenhouses. Baits are most effective during moist conditions. Irrigate prior to application to promote activity and place baits in areas that are the wettest. Methiocarb is applied as a foliar spray. A bait recently registered in some areas is iron phosphate (Sluggo or Escar-Go).

**Cultural Control.** Barriers are the most common cultural control. Barriers, made out of copper flashing and screens, have been used to keep slugs and snails out of planting areas. Copper barriers are effective because it is thought that copper reacts with the slime these pests secrete, causing a flow of electricity. Copper is a repellent to snails and slugs. Bands of thin copper sheet around tree trunks prevent snails from climbing. Lines of lime and copper sulphate are also repellent and can be used to prevent migration into an area. In addition, Bordeaux mixture (copper sulfate and hydrated lime mixture), dry ashes, and diatomaceous earth have been used. Snails and slugs do not like dry surfaces. Continuous lines of saw-dust and ashes have been used as barriers. However they are only effective as long as they are dry.

**Biological Control.** There are many natural enemies of slugs and snails, including ground beetles, pathogens, snakes, toads, turtles, and birds but there are few, if any, commercially available natural enemies marketed for this use. Birds have been used in commercial greenhouse to reduce slugs and snails.

**[Commercial Foliage and Woody Ornamental Arthropod Pest Management](#) an [EDIS PUBLICATION](#)**

### PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INSECTS AND MITES IN COMMERCIAL GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

Ronald D. Oetting

Department of Entomology

CAES/Griffin Campus

Broad spectrum insecticides have been the traditional management strategy used in greenhouse production. These compounds are effective for most pests but are also harmful to beneficial natural enemies. New strategies incorporate compounds that are compatible with natural enemies. These compounds have a narrow spectrum of pest activity and/or leave a minimal residual allowing natural enemies to help manage pests. In the following table the general insecticides are considered harmful to many natural enemies, the compatible insecticides can be used with natural enemies in a management program. The natural enemies are representatives of what is commercially available.