

SIOS

NOVEMBER, 2012
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NEWSLETTER

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



OFFICERS

John Foley
President 718-996-1064

Jeff Li
Vice President 917-880-0238

Amy Eli Trautwein
Co-Vice President 347-216-1574

Colman Rutkin
Treasurer 718-816-0682
Carol Cammarano
Co-Treasurer 718-948-6439

Sharon Jaffee
Secretary/AOS Rep 347-484-7518

Joan Grabowsky
Member Secretary 718-356-1098

TRUSTEES

Ron Altman, D.D.S. 908-658-3055
Patrick and Carol Cammarano
718-948-6439
Gerry Cassella 718-698-3718
Dr. Olga Federico 718-987-0255
Michael Corace 718-375-3177
Cara Minucci 646-299-6888
Karen Silverman 718-356-4482
Roy Fox 718-448-8317
David O'Dell 718-966-6174
Amy Eli Trautwein 347-216-1574

NEWSLETTER

Kathleen Ruoti, Editor
718-967-6158
wraprascal@mindspring.com

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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

Tuesday, November 20th 7pm

A Message from the VP

Welcome back to our newsletter, friends! If you are reading this, then I suspect that you have (finally) gotten power back at home, and that you have recovered from the one-two knockout punch delivered by Hurricane Sandy and the winter snowstorm.

Our last official newsletter was way back in the sultry days of August. Since then we've heard Dave Taft tell us in August about the amazing diversity of native orchids in NYC and Staten Island that are growing right under our noses; Helen Hirsh provided us some tips on advanced windowsill growing in September; and, an animated Christian Carrillo shared some excellent advice and suggestions on orchids that every enthusiast should try in October.

This month our special guest, Jim Freeman, will be talking to us about fragrant orchids on the 20th of November. So, Mr. Freeman promises to share a number of suggestions that are both beautiful and smell wonderful, so be sure to attend!

And why am I telling you all of this instead of our society's President? Well, because our fearless leader decided to wait out the storm in splendid fashion by checking into the hospital again, and during that time he must have gone for the buy one get one free special, since while he was there, he contracted a new infection. Thankfully, John is recovering well, and we all look forward to seeing him at this month's meeting. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well.

Lastly, some people have expressed an interest in doing a mounting workshop, and others have expressed interest in having another repotting session. Please talk to me during this month's meeting so I can gauge interest, and we will be sure to plan a session in the near future!

Jeff Li

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Speaker: Jim Freeman

Topic: Fragrant Orchids:

"From Ambrosial to Awful"

Jim Freeman will be presenting "Fragrant Orchids: From Ambrosial to Awful"

Mr. Freeman will discuss the stunning diversity of orchid scents, its physiology, its role in pollination, and the different categories of orchid scents: from wonderfully floral, fruity, and spicy to odd-smelling like mushroom, rye bread, and cedarwood and those that just plain stink! Mr. Freeman will also share his favorite fragrant species for indoor growers.

Jim Freeman has been growing orchids in windows, basements, balconies and office cubicles for years and the immediate past President of the Manhattan Orchid Society, where he has also written articles for the Society newsletter. An ex-lawyer, he ditched full-time employment for part-time parenting, teaching, and (very) part-time employment as a garden coach and speaker. Mr. Freeman's past articles can be seen online at <http://www.deanstreetorchids.blogspot.com>.

OCTOBER SHOW TABLE TALLIES

WINDOWSILL

Jeff Li - 6

GREENHOUSE

Ron Altman - 45
Dave O'Dell - 15
Colman Rutkin - 8
Tano Carbonaro - 7

LIGHTS

Roy Fox - 23
Pat Cammarano - 19

Sorry, no photos were taken at the October meeting.

A bloom from my *Restrepia trichoglossa*. This is the yellow form of the orchid, which I keep on a southern windowsill. I also keep this orchid incredibly wet...almost always dripping with water. I do not water it daily, but rather I have it in a core of mix that is suitable for *Oncidium*s, all wrapped in a sphagnum moss in a net basket which sits in a small plastic dish. It continues to bloom faithfully and often, even though the blooms are minuscule.

Jeff Li



A note from Amy Trautwein

I just saw this in my inbox and thought you might want to include it in the newsletter . . .

<http://www.delawarevalleyorchidcouncil.org/forum.html>

Also, here are two photos that illustrate the fact that a Psychopsis spike should not be cut unless it is dead all the way down. Psychopsis (sometimes known as the butterfly orchid, and formerly classified as Oncidium) have spikes that will rebloom successively for years. Mine has one spike that has bloomed several times a year since I bought it in 2005. Last winter, the tips of all three spikes on my plant mysteriously dried up. However, even though the tips turned dead and brown, new shoots started at the next lowest node and blooming has resumed. In fact, on one spike, the next two nodes became active! I don't know how common it is for Psychopsis spikes to rejuvenate like this, but if you do have a Psychopsis and a spike seems dead, hold off on the pruning shears until all hope is lost!



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

Sharon Jaffee's Orchid



I am sending you a photo of my Pot Elaine Taylor--'Krull-Smith' FCC/AOS that just bloomed as of today.

Hopefully, it will still be in bloom for our October meeting.