



Tidewater Orchid Society

September 2023 Newsletter



President's Message

Hello TOS!

What a great first meeting back for the membership. Last month we heard from speaker Tom Etheridge who spoke via Zoom on Dracula orchids. An email was sent to the membership with Tom's tips on where to purchase Dracula orchids and a link for information on the TDS meter.

Our next membership meeting will be our Member Auction on October 1 at 2:00 at the VA Tech AREC. A few things about the auction:

This is a great time to share your orchids with fellow members. Plants are starting to move back into the greenhouse and potentially they've gotten too big. Bring the whole plant or just sections/cuttings and we'll auction them off!

It is also a wonderful time to support the TOS as this is a major fundraising event for the TOS.

If you plan to bring plants, please clean them up prior to the auction.

Have the identification tags available if your plant has one. We will take NOID or untagged plants as well for the auction.

Try to keep your plant donations to around 5. We'll accept a few more but be mindful we have to finish the meeting by 5:00.

Jot down your plant names and send to Brandt Moran (text or email) by noon on Saturday September 29th. He will use that information to create a visual catalog to show at the auction. This will greatly help members understand what the plants will look like when in bloom (if they aren't blooming during the auction).

Non-members are welcome to join in the fun. Bring a fellow orchid grower or someone

2023-2024 Schedule

10/1: Member Donated Plant Auction
11/5: Jean Stefanik, AOS Accredited Judge
12/3: Awards Banquet

Officers

President	Sandra Cross
Vice President	Dori Iwanowski
Secretary	Traci Firgau
Treasurer	Barbara MacKechnie
Past President	Bert Bennett

Trustees

2021-2024 – Peney Williams, Richard Palley
2022-2025 – Jamie Krochmal, Judy Hyszczak
2023-2026 - Naomi Sato and Dona Storey

Volunteers

AOS Rep	Louise Roesser
Auction	Jamie Krochmal, Brandt Moran
Budget	Barbara MacKechnie
Conservation	Richard Palley
Door Prize	Kathy Greaser
Education	Patsy Temple
Table Judging	Don Greaser
Exhibits	VACANT
Historian	Don Greaser
Hospitality	Jeanette Spreeman, Pat Coderre, Judy Hyszczak
Library	Kathy Greaser
Membership	Patsy Temple, Sonja Singh
Newsletter	Ellen Hansen
Program	Dori Iwanowski
Publicity	Dori Iwanowski
Sales Table	Peggy Rogers, Roseann Wade
Sunshine	Cynni & Red Taylor
Webmaster	Paul Chung, Kathy Greaser

interested in becoming one!

Auctions are a great place to pick up orchids at reasonable prices and ask the grower how they've had success with that species.

Bring your wallets. The TOS will happily accept cash, checks and credit cards. Credit cards will be subjected to a small charge to cover transaction fee costs.

Due to the auction, our sales and show tables are CLOSED.

Friendly reminder to ensure your dues are current. You can bring payment to our next meeting, cash, check or charge.

The Board met after the last membership meeting to hold a vote on a replacement Trustee for the upcoming 3-year term. I am pleased to announce the Board has elected Dona Storey as our newest Trustee. Congratulations Dona! Lastly, if you'd like to volunteer and serve on the 2024 March Show and Sale planning committee, contact Dori Iwanowski.

See you soon!
Sandra Cross

Reminder: VA Tech AREC is located at 1444 Diamond Springs Road.

<http://www.tidewaterorchidsociety.org>

An AOS Affiliated Society

Tidewater Orchid Society is a 501(c)(3) organization



Tidewater Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President, Sandra Cross at 2:01 pm at the VA Tech AREC.

Business:

Minutes from the last meeting in May were posted with the newsletter that was emailed out to members, as well as, on the TOS website. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May membership meeting by Jamie Krochmal and seconded by Gill Gillespie. The motion was passed.

The following items were discussed at the Board meeting July 18, 2023:

-The committee list was updated and included with the minutes in the newsletter. Frank Drew volunteered to be lead for Exhibits and Brandt Moran will be secondary. Brandt will also be co-chair for the auction committee.

-Education will need a new volunteer to begin shadowing Patsy so they will be ready to take-over when Patsy steps down. We are currently looking for someone to do this.

-Members should be aware that the bylaws and TOS guidelines can be accessed on the website. These documents give information on officers' duties, dues, etc. Sandra is available to answer any questions members might have about these documents. Patsy reported that as members pay their dues these documents will also be emailed to them.

Reminder that dues for the year are currently due. Dues can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. There is a one dollar additional fee charged for using a credit card. Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for family. (\$31 and \$41 for credit card users).

Treasury report-Barbara reported that the auction in June grossed \$1690.00. 75% of those proceeds were paid to the sellers. The society netted \$422.00. The society is caught up on all bills but will need to pay for the website subscription soon.

Secretary report-Nothing to report at this time.

Vice-President report-Dori reported that there was an issue with the November speaker. There is no further information regarding a speaker at this time. Dori also reported that she spoke with several people at Norfolk Botanical Gardens (NBG) and they assured her that TOS would be able to use the front hallway in Baker Hall Visitors Center for the March show. The Center should be open and accessible to the public. If members have a specific speaker that they would like to hear at that time, please let Dori know. There will also be a classroom available in Baker Hall for TOS to use during the show for the speaker presentation. Dori will need a committee to help with the planning. She will get some information together and send out needs/openings in the newsletter. The show will be in the beginning of March, Dori will get the specific dates.

October 1st is the member donated plants auction meeting. All proceeds go to TOS.

Brandt would like to know what plants are going to be sold before the auction so he can make a catalogue. Please text or email him plant information by noon on Saturday September 29 th . The meeting will still

start at 2:00 so come early to bring in plants and preview prior to the auction. Please make sure that tag information is legible. We will also take “no name” plants. There was discussion about the number of plants that can be donated per person. The number given was five although Gill noted that whole collections have been auctioned. Sandra will look into what needs to be done to clarify/change this in the bylaws/guidelines.

Brandt will be placing an order for testing strips for viruses, etc. If you would like to order testing strips let him know. He will send out some additional information regarding this order.

American Orchid Society (AOS)-Louise shared some information about AOS. It is over 100 years old and is the largest orchid society in the world. She then showed an informational video about AOS and member benefits. Please ask Louise if you have any questions about the video or AOS.

Dori introduced our speaker Tom Etheridge who spoke about Draculas via Zoom.

Following the presentation Sandra recapped the fall schedule to include the October auction, November speaker, and December potluck dinner and awards. Sandra said that the general consensus per feedback to her is that the December potluck dinner is better than a catered dinner and a better use of TOS monies. She did say that she could check into the cost for a catered event at ‘Hits in the Park’ if members were interested in doing that.

The next beginners’ class will be September 9, 2023 at 10:00 at AREC. The topic will be TOS Bylaws. Patsy will send out an email.

Following a break for refreshments, dues payments, and sales table purchases Brandt, Jamie, Jim, Louise, Roseanne, John Z. and Gerry talked about the plants that they brought in for the show table.

Raffle tickets were drawn and there were six lucky winners.

In closing Sandra reminded everyone to look for auction news and Dori said she would get information about several things from Tom’s presentation that members were interested in and send it out in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Submitted by Tracey Firgau-Secretary



Thinking of joining the AOS (American Orchid Society)? There are many benefits to joining.
Here are a few:

- **Monthly Orchid Magazine** which includes great articles & a gallery of AOS awarded plants
- **Webinars** are internet-connected audiovisual presentations from industry experts which you can view live or later at your leisure.
- **OrchidPro (95k+ photos)** a program which includes the history & description of many awarded plants
 - **Save** a minimum of 5% from top 50 orchid vendors
 - **Popular Orchid Care Articles**
 - **And More**

The AOS supports educational opportunities, orchid conservation & research & world-class awards & judging system. Our goal is to promote the appreciation of orchids, the American Orchid Society delivers the most up-to-date, accurate, educational information about orchid culture and sponsors research and conservation initiatives to improve the outlook for orchids around the globe.

Membership levels are: Gold \$81 (one year) \$162 (2years) includes online + print magazine OR Silver \$54 (one year) \$108 (2 years) includes online magazine only. For more information go to aos.org.



Would you like photos of your flowering orchids included in the monthly newsletter photo gallery?

Please email your photos as an attachment to Ellen Hansen. Refer to your roster for the email address.

Please remember to include your name and a clear description of your plant's name.
Thank you!

