

# Orchid   Offshoots

The News Letter of the

## Staten Island Orchid Society

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Volume XXV, Issue 11

November, 2002

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Our next meeting:

**November 19, 2002 beginning 7:30 P.M.**

at

All Saints Episcopal Church  
2329 Victory Blvd.  
(corner of Woolley Ave.)

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Speaker: DENNJIS D'ALESSANDRO  
(Gypsy Glen Orchids, PA)

Topic: The Orchids of Borneo

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**2002 SIOS Officers, Chairmen and Trustees**

President: Ralph Wihlborg  
Vice President: John Foley  
Treasurer: Karen Woytowich  
Secretary: Michael Corace  
Ass't Treasurer: Carl Phillips  
Hospitality: Karen Silverman  
Membership: Carol Doran  
Monthly Raffle: Jo Guardino  
Editor: James Hannah  
Show Table Judge: Dick Doran  
Show Table Tally: Jo Guardino

Trustees (1 yr): Olga Federico, Karen Silverman, John Stallone  
(2 yr): Angelo Arena, Frank Ariosta, Frank Whitam  
(3 yr): Gerry Cassella, Howard Fischer, Jo Guardino

**Society Meeting Dates and Times**

[note: all meetings are monthly unless noted.]

Deep Cut Orchid Society: 2nd Tuesday (except July & Aug.), 7:15 PM  
Delaware Orchid Society: 2nd Tuesday (except July & Aug.), 7 PM  
Genesee Region Orchid Society: 1st Monday following 1st Sunday (except June, July & Aug.), 7 PM  
  
Greater New York Orchid Soc.: 4th Wednesday, 7 PM  
Greater Westchester Orch. Soc.: 2nd Tuesday, 7 PM  
Long Island Orchid Society: 2nd Thursday, 8 PM  
Manhattan Orchid Society: 2nd Wednesday (except July & Aug.), 6:30 PM  
Matinecock Orchid Society: 3rd Friday (except July & Aug.), 8 PM  
Mid Hudson Orchid Society: 2nd Sunday, 1:30 PM  
Northeast Center Judging: 3rd Saturday, 10 AM  
North Jersey Orchid Society: 2nd Thursday, 8 PM  
Pinelands Orchid Society: 1st Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Ramapo Orchid Society: 3rd Thursday (except July & Aug.), 7:00 PM  
Southeastern Pennsylvania O.S.: 2nd Wednesday (except June, July & Aug.), 7 PM  
Staten Island Orchid Society: **3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM**  
Suffolk Orchid Society: 2nd Monday

**Orchid Offshoots, the News Letter of the Staten Island Orchid Society**

Distributed monthly to all paid members of the Staten Island Orchid Society.

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The **Staten Island Orchid Society** is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c).

## The Show Table

**October highlights:** (plants scoring 6 or more points.)

### Orchid

### Shown by:

V. yellow red spots	Angelo Arena
Paph. Maudiae x Valentine	" "
Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice	Frank & Peggy Ariosta
Lc. Dupreana	" " "
C. Portia 'True Blue'	" " "
Pot. Miya's Radiance	" " "
Pot. Huan Yuen Gold	" " "
Lc. Mini Purple 'Lea'	" " "
Blc. Dancing Sunlight	Gerry Cassella
C. Caudebec 'Carmela' HCC	" "
Lc. Ann Akugi 'Hihima'	" "
Paph. Leyburnense	" "
P. Gardneri x P. Moquetteanum	" "
Psychosis Papilo	Anthony Penza
C. Bactia Grapewax	" "
Masd. Copper Angel	" "
Masd. Amethyst	" "
L. Purpurata x Li. Richard Mueller	" "

### **Points earned this month:**

#### **Windowsill**

Angelo Arena	26
Michael Corace	26
Howard Fischer	9
Jo Guardino	5
Diana Milatta	10
Anthony Penza	45
John Stallone	4

#### **Greenhouse**

Frank & Peggy Ariosa	65
Gerry Cassella	41

#### **Lights**

Olga Federico*	23
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Note: A YTD tally sheet is available for inspection at each meeting. Just ask Jim Hannah.

\*Welcome back, Olga. [Ed.]

### Help the Society!

We're quickly approaching the second [and last!] auction of the year. For those of you who haven't thought about it much, our two orchid auctions are *the* financial mainstay of the Association. The more money the auctions bring in, the better the SIOS's books look at the end of the year. And the more people who attend the auctions, the more the prices of the plants increase and the greater the financial benefit for the Society.

Now, these auctions are open to the public. So . . . if you know of a friend or neighbor who would like to get beautiful orchids at great prices -- please, please, pretty-please -- bring them along.

### **Show Table Judging Sheet**

Filling out a show table judging sheet? You can make it a lot easier on the Show Table Judge [always a good thing to do] and also on your friendly neighborhood editor if you:

- take care to print the orchid's name clearly, and
- make sure that there's no confusion between the position of the orchid's name and the corresponding 'Points awarded' line.

I'll have some new judging sheets available at the next meeting. You'll probably find that they're a bit easier to use. Try 'em. You'll probably like 'em. Thanks. Ed.

### **Doings at Parkside**

If you checked the back page, you've already got some idea of the things going on at the Parkside Orchid Nursery. Here's a bit more detail.

Saturday, Nov. 23.

10 AM: Introduction to Orchids, a class for beginners.

1:30 PM: Orchid Species of Ecuador, a presentation by Jose Portilla, President of Ecuagenera Orchids. There is no charge for this class, but please contact Parkside in advance.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 29th and 30th and Dec. 1st.

Parkside Anniversary Sale and Holiday Open House.

Saturday, Nov. 30. 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

International Phalaenopsis Alliance 2002 Joint Regional Meeting.

Registration fee: \$15. Morning refreshments and a box lunch are included.

You should contact Parkside in advance if you plan to attend any of the above. You can reach them at (610) 847-8039, fax them at (610) 847-1211, or e-mail them at [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com). If you're addicted to snail mail, try Parkside Orchid Nursery, 2503 Mountainview Drive, Ottsville, PA 18942.

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**Ramblings:** Duke Gardens, Part 1.

It was early spring. Our bus turned south in the hilly countryside of northern New Jersey and cleared the western end of the Watchung ridge just above Somerville. The land flattened out. It was as if we'd left the open sea and entered the calm waters of a broad harbor. Hillsborough was our destination or, to be more precise, the Gardens at Duke Farms. We were part of a tour group; about 30 people of diverse backgrounds on a day trip sponsored by the Staten Island Botanical Garden. I suspect that only a few of us were even remotely aware of the splendor of the display gardens we would visit.

The Duke estate, which includes the Gardens, was created by J. B. Duke in the early 1900's. He amassed, through individual purchases, what is now one of the largest privately-owned open areas of land in New Jersey. Doris, his only daughter, fashioned the Gardens, which were initially opened to the public in 1964. What you see today is her original concept; a series of eleven 'theme' gardens under glass. You can visit them from October 1st through May 31st. All tours are guided and the size of each group shown through the Gardens is limited to assure a cozy visitor-to-guide ratio. The guides are the primary source of information on the plantings in the gardens. You'll find no identifying tags or placards as you would in a botanical garden.

The point at which the tour intersected with our interest in orchids was in the Edwardian Garden, third of the eleven. It was during this period that Europe began its love affair with orchids. The Edwardian Garden conveys this mauve-colored obsession with great skill. It is thickly planted with many species from several genera. We were surrounded with orchid blooms everywhere we turned. The plants were well-groomed, with flowers carefully displayed. Given our interest in orchids, we could easily have spent half of the allotted tour time in this single garden. But that was not to be. The tours are nicely timed to permit a leisurely stroll through all eleven gardens, but the pathways are not wide. In fairness to others, you automatically keep up with your particular group. We later learned that there were about 500 orchids in bloom in the Gardens, but that's part of 'the rest of the story' [with apologies to Paul Harvey.]

As we continued through the other gardens (Chinese, Indo-Persian and Tropical, to name a few), we kept returning in our minds to the orchids. Questions kept popping up. How did they manage to have such a well-timed floral display? (We saw no orchids that were not in bloom.) Were the orchids planted? Or potted? (Dense foliage foiled any cursory investigation.) Where did the flowering orchids come from? (We guessed there was a nearby source, possibly of some size.)

When we got home, we wrote a letter to Duke Farms noting our delight in the Gardens and our specific interest in the orchids. We requested a chance to return for a 'behind-the-scenes' visit to answer some of the questions we had about the orchids in the display.

Our letter was promptly answered. It was suggested that we contact Mr. Anton Gsell, the Gardens Director, to arrange for a visit. We did. A date and time were agreed upon. We waited impatiently for the appointed day to arrive.

[Duke Gardens, Route 206, Hillsborough, NJ. 08876. Reservations: (908) 243-3600.  
Information also available on the website [www.njskylands.com/atdukgar.htm](http://www.njskylands.com/atdukgar.htm)]