

Orchid Offshoots

The News Letter of the

Staten Island Orchid Society

Volume XXV, Issue 12

December, 2002

Our next meeting:

December, 2002 beginning 7:30 P.M.

at

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

#####

Program:

WINTER AUCTION and HOLIDAY PARTY

[Don't forget to tell a friend!]

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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.

Please direct any other enquiries to the Society's website at: www.geocities.com/rainforest/andes/7947

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

The Show Table

November 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 x	" " "
C. Portia 'True Blue'	" " "
Pot. Miya's Radiance	" " "
Pot. Huan Yuen Gold	" " "
Lc. Mini Purple 'Lea'	" " "
Blc. Dancing Sunlight	Gerry Cassella
C. Caudebe 'Carmela" HCC	" "
Lc. Ann Akigi 'Hihimayo'	" "
Paph. Leyrur	" "
P. Gardineri x P. Moquett ian	" "
Psychosis Papilo	Anthony Penza
Catt. Bactia Grape wax	" "
Masd. Copper Angel	" "
L. Purpurata x Bl. 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.

Help the Association!

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 Association. 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, pretty-please -- bring them along.

Ramblings: Duke Gardens, Part 2.

Last month, I explained how my Lady (Joan) and I got the chance to go 'backstage' at the Duke Gardens. The appointed day finally came and we drove to the Duke estate, checked in with the gatekeeper and were quickly escorted to the main tour building. There we met Mr. Anton Gsell, the Gardens Director. He rapidly sketched in some information on orchids at the Gardens. Then he asked us to follow him to the orchid facility located elsewhere on the vast estate. We got into our car and drove after him.

As we approached it, we realized that this was no ordinary greenhouse. The main building is a glass house in the grand Victorian style. Its dimensions are approximately 75 feet by 50 feet. The roof rises some 25 feet overhead. Interestingly, there's little of the usual bench furniture inside. Instead, the floor descends below grade level in a series of wide ledges. These ledges form 'benches' for orchids during the winter. At the time of our visit, they were empty. The plants were 'summering' outside in hoop houses.

It was here we met Bill Granfield, the principal orchidist, and his assistant, Jeff MacBride. The normal staff is three people year-round. Our first two questions gave dimension to the Duke Gardens orchid program. "How big are the orchid greenhouses, total?" "About 10,000 square feet," Bill replied. "And how many orchids do you have here?" Bill smiled. "Including the 500 or more on display in the exhibition gardens, we have about 10,000 plants in our care." He went on to note that a large collection is required to assure sufficient plants in bloom for the needs of the exhibition gardens. The Gardens are open to the public from October 1st through May 31st. Summers are for maintenance and refurbishing.

Leading from the back of the main glass house was a large corridor. The first part of it included a pool of considerable size. Branching from the corridor were other orchid houses. These were climate-controlled, with the conditions dependant on the types of orchids. Although we didn't specifically count them, we had the impression that there were perhaps 8 - 10 of these orchid houses branching off the main corridor.

There was just too much to see -- too many facts and figures -- to include all but a taste here. Some of the things we noted were: Spanish moss hanging from the bottoms of baskets containing 6 foot Vandas. Huge numbers of Cymbidiums, Phals, Paphs, Catts. High airflow in most of the orchid houses. "It combats fungus," nods Jeff. Aha! Clover in some of the pots. "We live with it as best we can. It's tough to eradicate," Bill says. "What's your most serious pest?" "Western flower thrip," from Jeff. "How do you insure you'll have enough orchids in bloom?" Big grins from both. "Repotting?" "Major activity." "The collection?" "Begun by Doris Duke's father. It's grown somewhat through the years." "Doing any hybridizing?" "Not yet, but we'd love to," from Bill. And one last surprise: as we left, Jeff presented us with rooted cuttings of -- a beautiful superba begonia! It's thriving -- constantly reminding us of orchids and kind, friendly people. |

[Duke Gardens, Route 206, Hillsborough, NJ. 08876. Reservations: (908) 243-3600.

Information also available on the website www.njskylands.com/atdukgar.htm]