

SIOS

MARCH, 2009
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NEWSLETTER

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



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

Next meeting March 17th 7:00pm

A Message from John

Top of the Morning!

(or whatever!)

HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY

My message today is a sad one. Our member and dear friend Danny Parrottino died last week after a very long illness. For those of us who knew and loved Danny this is a great loss. A memorial Fund has been established in his honor and will be donated to a charity in his name. If any of you wish to contribute can send me your check payable to SIOS with "For Danny" in the "Memo". I will gladly forward them.

I want to personally thank Dick Doran for representing the Society at Danny's services last week. I'm sure you all will join me in sending our Thoughts and Prayers to his wife and their family.

At our next meeting we will discuss in detail the progress of our ORCHID SHOW. Things are looking really GOOD! We do need you. Let's talk about how you can

help. Time is moving fast...May is just around the corner. So be at the next meeting.

Although optional, Green attire of any kind will be perfect for the day.

So until I see you all there.
Be Well and Be Good!
~John



March Speaker
Ron Midgett

Get Well Wishes to
John Stallone
Hurry up and get well...
we miss you and Helen and
your beautiful orchids.

To the family of
Danny Parrottino
we were deeply sorry to
hear about the death of
Danny. Please accept our
most heartfelt sympathies
for your loss...our thoughts
are with you and your
family during this
difficult time.

On this one year anniversary of Karen Woytowich's passing, the SIOS remembers our dear friend Karen. We continue to keep her and her family in our memory.

RAFFLE **PLANTS**

We need raffle plants.
If you have any plants you wish to donate, please bring them to the next meeting.

Show Tally Table for February

LIGHTS

Joseph Schwab 25



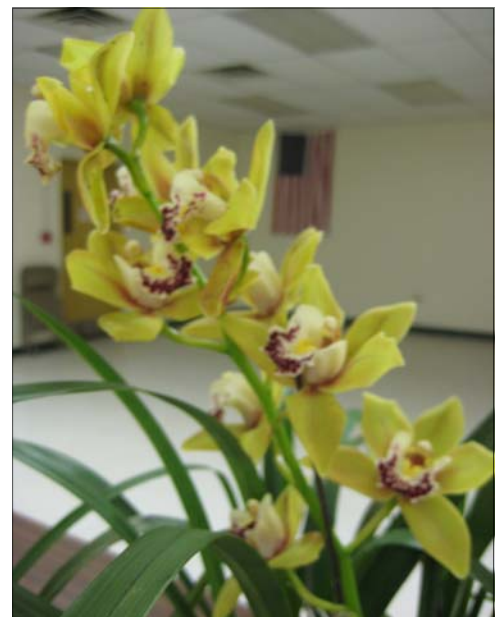
GREENHOUSE

Dave O'Dell 66



WINDOWSILL

Pat Cammarano - 24
Michael Corace - 30
Roy Fox - 12
Kathleen Ruoti - 7
Karen Silverman - 7



The Word for February – COLD

Ron McHatton - AOS Director of Education

Unless you are fortunate enough to live in the perpetual springtime of Hawaii, February is one of those months you have to be on your guard for cold. Our members in the northern parts of the country are well aware of how cold it can be, especially this year, but the problem isn't confined to our northern states and not just a matter of air temperature. During the winter months, growers in the deep south may be exposed to rapidly fluctuating temperatures; 80 F today and 35 F tomorrow night and along with those cold snaps come often powerful, dehydrating winds. Those who grow outside should always be mindful that sometimes only a degree or two (or an hour or two) stands between tolerating a cold snap and total disaster. It's always best to err on the conservative side, especially if your plants are wet when the cold arrives. Dry plants usually survive extremely low temperatures better than wet plants.

Those of you who grow your plants in bay windows or greenhouse windows should be aware of how cold it can become in those spaces. I once knew a grower in upstate New York who grew her plants on the floor of a bay window and, one particularly cold winter lost them when the pots froze because of poor insulation in the window floor. The plants looked okay for a few days and then died from the pot up. Along similar lines, think twice about drawing a curtain across the window to help keep the rest of the house warm at night. Doing so traps a layer of air between the curtain and the glass windows that can become dangerously cold as heat is lost through the window panes.

Even if you grow your plants in a greenhouse, you should be aware that the temperature of a wet pot can be significantly lower than the greenhouse air temperature especially if the humidity in the greenhouse is low or the heat source has a drying effect such as heated forced air. This is because the wet pots act as miniature humidifiers evaporating moisture into the dry air. Evaporation reduces the temperature just like perspiring helps make us feel cooler. Under certain circumstances, the temperature difference can exceed 10 F. Cold roots can be extremely damaging to warm-growing orchids and if you are lowering your thermostats to save fuel, watch these plants carefully.

This brings me to warm or tepid water. Even if you live in an area where you are fortunate enough to be able to grow your plants outside year round be mindful that the temperature of the water you use can become an issue this time of the year. Cold water can be as damaging to the roots of our plants as cold air can be to foliage. How can you easily tell if your water gets too cold – put your hand in it? It's often said that if you are comfortable your plants will also be comfortable and that's true of water as well. If you can't comfortably hold your hand for an extended period of time in your water supply it's too cold.

Moth Orchids – Winter's Jewels



Doritaenopsis Chain Xen Pearl 'Penny', AM/AOS
(Ching Hua Spring x Nobby's Pink Lady)
Photographer: Tek H. Hia
Grower: A & P Orchids, Swansea, MA

Winter is in full swing this month and so is the moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis* and *Doritaenopsis*) flowering season. These brightly colored, easily grown beauties help to take some of the edge off the gloomy winter season. Years ago when I first started growing orchids, *Phalaenopsis* were sort of like Henry Ford's early cars. You could have any color you wanted as long as it was pink or white (black in the case of the Ford Model A). Today, *phalaenopsis* hybrids are available in virtually every color of the rainbow, including blue and green and every combination of spots and stripes you can imagine.

Go to <http://www.aos.org> to read more

*The Honor
Of
Your Presence
Is
Requested*

*Southeastern Pennsylvania
Orchid Society Dinner/
Dance at Longwood Gardens*

Come Dine and Dance among the Orchids

Saturday, May 28, 2009

6:00 -11:00PM

Longwood Gardens Conservatory

Hors D'oeuvres

Main Meal Choice of One:

Seared Caribbean pork tenderloin with warm mango jalapeno chutney

European chicken breast with natural thyme reduction

or Grilled polenta with grilled vegetables, goat cheese and roasted tomato sauce

Dessert - Chocolate Lava Cake

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required \$77/head

Marrianna Occhiuzzo

140 Columbia Ave

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 909-5908

Cash, checks (made payable to SEPOS, VISA/MC and Discover accepted)

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Now through April 12,

“The Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern,”

a display of thousands of flowers,

set in a contemporary garden, with artwork.

The NY Botanical Garden is located in the Bronx

across from the Bronx Zoo.

For directions go to

http://www.nybg.org/visit_the_garden/directions.php

The Sussex Springfest, held at the state fair grounds, is featuring orchids this year.

I have attached a coupon for a \$1 off the price of admission.

They have gone all out to feature the orchids including getting a full page article in the regional paper in which all but one of the 5 or 6 pictures featured orchids from our greenhouse.

Please email this to all of your members.
We would like to see them attend.

This is a very nice show with a new \$1 million dollar exhibition greenhouse.

Thanks and Kind Regards,
Ron Midgett



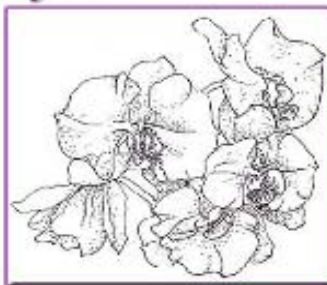
Springfest
Flower & Garden Show

Café
Speakers
Magnificent New Conservatory
Kids' Zone
Display Gardens
Marketplace

March 12-15, 2009
The Conservatory, Sussex County Fairgrounds
Rt. 206 to 37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ
10 AM-5 PM Daily, Friday till 8 pm
\$1 off regular \$11 Adult Admission with this ad!
Adults \$11 • Seniors \$8 • Children under 12 - Free
Thursday is Seniors Day \$6
www.springfestgardenshow.org
973-948-9448



*Longwood Gardens
International Orchid Show and Sale
Saturday, March 28, 2009*



**BUS LEAVES THE HANOVER MANOR AT 8:30 AM
AND WILL RETURN THERE AT 4:30 PM**

Parking is available in the rear of the Hanover Manor.

Please carpool if possible.

The bus has toilet facilities.

The price is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members.

**This includes round-trip bus fare, entrance to
Longwood Gardens and wine & cheese on the return trip.**

Send checks to Anita Gibaldi

133 Pershing Avenue, Nutley, NJ 07110

973-661-0520

email anitagibaldi@optonline.net

**Please include a phone number with your check
in case we need to reach you.**

Note on your check "Longwood Gardens Trip"

There can be no refund for no-shows.

**For more information contact Sharon @ 908-507-2717
or chaplinsky@embarqmail.com**

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

SIOS Staten Island Orchid Society
1306 Arden Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10312-4901



ADDRESS LABEL

Orchid Related Websites and Information

ORCHIDS ON THE WEB

For all you web surfers here are some sites you might enjoy visiting:

orchidweb.org

This is the AOS official website. It is a wealth of information on all things ORCHID

orchidmall.com

Looking for plants to buy? Here's a resource for you. Listing vendors from all over the world.

repotme.com

Everything you need to supply your orchid collection.

That's a start. Happy surfing!!