

Pinelands Orchid Society

www.pinelandsorchidsociety.org

P.O. Box 954, Voorhees, NJ 08043 October 2004

A glorious day has dawned. I am looking over my plants before I start watering, and everyone looks pretty happy. It won't be long now till the spikes start showing!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 5, 2004 at 7:30pm at the Woodland Fire Co. in Cherry Hill. Our speaker will be Paul Sheetz of Just Pat Orchids. Paul is an accredited AOS judge from the MidAtlantic Judging Center and will be speaking on species *Phalaenopsis*. He will have some plants for sale.

Be sure to bring your blooming plants to the meeting. Paul will be helping with the show table. It's always exciting to hear what AOS judges have to say about the plants our members bring in. Points are awarded for each ribbon, and the points are tallied at the end of the year for our annual awards meeting. A blue ribbon is three points, a red 2, a white 1, and an honorable mention green is one half point. Make sure the plant is free of pests, and always remember to take a moment or two to stake the plants for the best presentation.

Refreshments: If your name begins with the letters D - G, please bring in a snack to share. The club will provide coffee and sodas.

It is the time of year when we ask you to pay dues. Dues help defray the expenses of the club. We are one of the lowest-priced clubs, with single dues at \$15.00, and \$20.00 for a household (2 or more people receiving one newsletter). Please see Valerie at the meeting to pay your dues. You will find in the newsletter a survey about your orchid

growing. Please complete the survey and bring it in with you dues. Or you can mail your dues and survey to our mailbox. Make checks payable to Pinelands Orchid Society.

If you are particularly observant, you will have noticed we have an addition to the heading on the newsletter. Yes, we have a website, courtesy of John DeGood. Please take a moment to check out the site. It has information about the club, past newsletters, and links to other orchid sites. John has done a great job, and we send him a big thank you!

Each month during the year, the MidAtlantic Judging Center meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park. The meeting begins at 7:00. Plants are judged, and often there is a slide show of recent awards. The slide programs will include pictures taken by our own Maurice Marietti. Maurice has been the photographer for the center for a year now, and has had pictures on the back cover of Awards Quarterly. You can also see some of his work in last months' AOS publication Orchids. Maurice's wife Charlene wrote an article about last year's Philadelphia Flower Show, and Maurice's pictures were published with the article.

Bob Taylor has become the regional distributor for Aussie Gold, a potting medium for orchids. It is based on diatomite, which does not break down like bark or moss. He will have bags for sale at the October meeting. For more information, you can go to the Aussie Gold website at www.aussie-gold.com

At last month's meeting, President Frank Heiler announced lifetime memberships for three of our members. They were John Ceresani, and Joe and Nancy Volpe.

John joined Pinelands in 1986. Over the years he has participated in many shows, including the Philadelphia Flower Show, the SEPOS Show at King of Prussia, and the shows mounted by the Affiliated Orchid Societies of Southern New Jersey. John currently serves as our "Jack-of-all-trades", taking care of the lights, the projector, opening the facility, setting up the room for meetings, and any other problems that arise. John lives in Cherry Hill with his wife Mary. He grows 250 orchids in an attached greenhouse. John is very happy to be recognized with a lifetime membership.

Nancy and Joe have been growing orchids for 19 years. At one time their collection numbered over 1300 orchids of various genera in 3 greenhouses with approximately 1000 square feet of growing area. Nancy mainly grew Cattleyas and Phragmipediums as well as other miscellaneous types. Joe grew predominately Paph species and Phals. They belong to 3 local orchid societies and have shown their orchids in as many as six shows annually including the Philadelphia Flower Show. For many years Joe was the chairman of the orchid section of the Philadelphia Flower Show. He was also president of the Affiliated Orchid Society and a representative to both the Delaware Orchid Council and the Eastern Orchid Congress. In addition to his own greenhouses he has been the designer for a number of local greenhouses for society members. Nancy, on the other hand, has concentrated on growing orchids and has established herself as an internationally known grower of Phrags. She is known as the "Phrag Hag." They have both given numerous lectures to local and New England societies as well as the Eastern Orchid Congress to share their experiences and stimulate orchid enthusiasm. Together they have gleaned 35 American Orchid Society awards including a 99 point Certificate of Cultural Merit, a Gold Certificate for an outstanding display of 30 Phrags as well as the Miyamoto Award given for the best Cattleya of 2002. Nancy has striven to grow specimen size CCM plants and many of her awards are of this type. They have been members of Pinelands Orchid Society for 18 years and Joe is a past president. Nancy now participates in judging the show table and they both continue to participate in all the shows. Over the past few years they have been downscaling their collection which now totals 200 plants. Their emphasis currently is on outdoor gardening and traveling.

Nancy and Joe are very thankful to be honored with a lifetime membership in the Pinelands Orchid Society and look forward to sharing many more years with their orchid friends.

Events

October 1-2, 2004 Pleurothallis Festival at Parkside Orchids. This is a Friday evening-all day Saturday event. You must register by calling Parkside at 610-847-8039. There is a \$35.00 registration fee.

October 5, 2004 Pinelands Orchid Society meeting, 7:30 at the Woodlands Fire Co. Cherry Hill, NJ. Speaker: Paul Sheetz of Just Pat Orchids, Species Phals.

October 23, 2004 Saturday Seminar at Parkside Orchids. 10:00 am. Intro to Orchids. ph. 610-847-8039

November 6, 2004 International Phalaenopsis Alliance Regional Meeting at Parkside Orchids. See attached registration.

November 20, 2004 Saturday Seminar at Parkside Orchids. 10:00 am. Intro to Orchids. 1:00 pm. Repotting Clinic. Ph. 610-847-8039

Our thanks to Action Graphics USA for printing our newsletter each month!

Officers

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