

April 2008

Pinelands Orchid Society

www.pinelandsorchidsociety.org

P.O. Box 954 - Voorhees, NJ 08043



It's Show Time !!!

The Longwood Gardens Show is fast approaching! We need your blooming orchids for our society exhibit! Our Show Chair, Mike Scott, and our Artistic Director, Bayard Saraduke, will be collecting your blooming plants if you cannot transport them to the show yourself. You may drop off your plants to whoever is closer to you. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for Mike and Bayard are printed on the last page of this newsletter.



Here are the show details:

- The show set up is Thursday, March 27th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Longwood Gardens. Judging begins at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 28th, and the show runs through the weekend until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 30th.
- If you will be transporting your own plants to the show, or if you will be arriving at Longwood to help our show team, please contact Mike Scott for a permit which will allow you to park in their business parking lot.
- Bayard Saraduke is preparing our plant labels. Please e-mail Bayard with the names of your plants by Sunday, March 23rd. Include the names of your plants' parents if you have them. If not, we will look them up for you.



At The Flower Show
Cymbidium Hybrid
Grown by Donna Boyle

Monthly Meeting Reminder



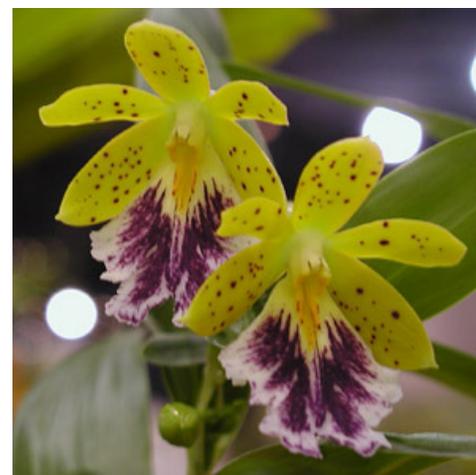
The next meeting of the Pinelands Orchid Society will be Tuesday, **April 1st**, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., at the Woodland Fire Co. Hall, 524 Beechwood Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ.

If your last name begins with the letters **A** through **E**, please bring a snack to share. The society will provide beverages.

Doors will open to accept Show Table Plants at 7:00 p.m.

Please Remember:

Show Table plants, along with their Completed Show Table slips, must be on the Show Tables by 7:30 p.m. **sharp** in order to be eligible for judging!



At The Flower Show
Oerstedella wallisii
(syn. *Epidendrum wallisii*)
Grown by Maurice Marietti



The Orchid Calendar



- **March 28—30**—Longwood Gardens International Orchid Show & Sale. For all the beautiful details, go to <http://longwoodgardens.org>. Pinelands Orchid Society will be one of the many area societies exhibiting on Longwood Gardens' fern floor in the Conservatory, and our Show Committee is asking for your blooming orchids again this year. See Mike Scott at our March 4th meeting if you would like to help with the Pinelands exhibit this year, and/or have plants for the show, or call him at (856) 547-0386 or email Mike at msscott48@comcast.net.
- **Tuesday, April 1**—Pinelands Orchid Society's monthly meeting. Program to be announced.



At The Flower Show
Doritaenopsis Yu Pin Pink Panther
Grown by Nancy Swindell

- **Happening Now until April 13th in Washington, D.C.: *An Alphabet of Orchids***, the annual orchid exhibit cosponsored by the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Smithsonian Institution, will entice visitors to wander through, and linger in, an "alphabet garden" that celebrates the beauty and diversity of orchids. The exhibit invites an exploration of the world of orchids, from their astounding **A**daptations to their environment . . . to orchids as a big **B**usiness among growers and merchandisers . . . to the critical **C**onservation of orchids . . . to the **Z**eal of orchid lovers worldwide. The USBG will host a variety of programs throughout the course of the exhibit, including workshops on painting orchids in oil or watercolor, repotting your own orchids, and photographing orchids; a tour of the exhibit led by a USBG orchid expert; and lectures on orchids as a plant family and the mysteries of orchid pollination. For further programming information, contact the USBG by calling 202-225-1116.

- **Happening Now until April 6th: *The Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden***. Mesmerizing and seductive, *The Orchid Show* presents the spectacular forms and breathtaking colors of the world's most coveted plant. Escape the winter blues by immersing yourself in the beauty and fragrance of thousands of orchids dramatically displayed in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Elsewhere in the Garden, the Orchid Rotunda in the Library building will be filled with *dendrobium* orchids, including those that have been recovered by The New York Botanical Garden in its role as a Plant Rescue Center. Orchid research by Garden scientists and a collection of rare orchid books are also on view in the Library building.

Throughout the exhibition, informative signs and an audio tour make it easy to learn about these intriguing plants. You can further explore their biology, ecology, and home-growing needs through the many Garden workshops and classes offered. In the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, find out the secrets of vanilla, which comes from an orchid. You'll also find a huge selection of orchids to choose from at Shop in the Garden, as well as the newly released NYBG Press book *Orchid Biology: Reviews and Perspectives, IX*, which includes a chapter on the origins of Singapore's national flower, the well-known hybrid *Vanda* 'Miss Joaquim', first described in 1893. For hours and information, go to <http://www.nybg.org/tos/>

- **Tuesday, May 6**—Pinelands Orchid Society's **Annual Auction!** The auction is our major annual fund raiser of the year and provides the funds needed to perform the many activities of the society, including hall rental, beverage service at monthly meetings, newsletter production and mailing, and programs and speakers. If you have plants and/or divisions to donate to our auction, please submit your plant list to Christine by Saturday, May 3rd. If you can arrive early to help with auction set up, please call Christine at 609-220-3210 or email roji@comcast.net.
- **Saturday, May 10**—**Delaware Valley Orchid Council's Speakers' Forum**—A great day of orchid activities right here in our own backyard! See flyer in this issue of the newsletter for information and registration form.
- **Tuesday, May 13**—Set-up day for the Pinelands exhibit at the Moorestown Garden Club's Standard Home & Garden Fair at the Community House in Moorestown, NJ. We have all day for set up, and we will be needing your plants for our display. Please call Christine if you would like to participate (609-220-3210).

Limited Time Special on AOS Membership! Now is the Time to Join!



We are getting the word out regarding the new AOS membership special. From now through March 31st, new members can join for only \$49.95 per year or \$99.95 for two years. Current members may extend their membership at the \$99.95/2-year rate. The two-year extensions or sign-ups still receive the \$30 coupon towards an orchid plant at several mail-order nurseries. The AOS web



Paphiopedilum Fair Yerba 'Pat DiSanto' AM/AOS
Grown by Ernie Masso

site has been updated to reflect these prices, so you can sign up through the secure web site, call membership at AOS (561-404-2060), or one of the current membership brochures can be used. Just cross out the \$60 and enter the special price. Brochures are always available at our Pinelands meetings.

In addition to the obvious benefits of membership, like *Orchids* magazine each month, membership in AOS gives members privileges at over 200 American Horticultural Society member gardens and arboreta. This turns out to be a rather well-kept secret. For example, here in the Delaware Valley, your AOS membership gives you free admission to the Winterthur Museum's gardens and galleries, the Delaware Center for Horticulture, the Camden Children's Garden, the Rutgers Garden in New Brunswick, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, the Hershey Gardens, and library circulation privileges at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. For a complete list of this reciprocal admissions program, go to http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/07/0708_RAP_Brochure.pdf

Pinelands Orchid Society Officers, Trustees, and Committee Members 2007-2008

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Web Site/Library/

Name Tags
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Refreshments
Christine Jacoby
Bob Bookbinder
Anita & Bob McGann

Monthly Meeting Raffle

Florence Lon
cheeky_bugger@hotmail.com



Sunshine Broker

If you know of any member who would appreciate receiving a "get well" note or condolence card during the year, please let Anita McGann know.

Anita can be reached at
(856)779-0643.
rcm51402121@yahoo.com

Orchid Tag: A Game For Six or More Players

By Betsy Sullivan

It sounds like a setup to an old joke: How many people does it take to label an orchid at the Philadelphia Flower Show? As it turns out, quite a few.

This year, for the first time, I worked behind the scenes as an orchid recorder. Not coincidentally, I've developed a whole new appreciation for the unsung heroes who prepare what I call The Greatest Show on Earth.

Before, I thought the most difficult prep work involved getting an orchid to bloom during what English poet Christina Rossetti called "the bleakest mid-winter." That's still a feat worth celebrating, of course.

However, cheers also should go to the volunteer army responsible for getting the plants tagged in their proper places. It ultimately made me wonder what would happen if these particular logistics personnel were to take on other important tasks that require military precision – managing international conflicts, perhaps, or even reversing economic downturns.

It begins, as many things do, with an entry form. You can pre-register (best if you are clairvoyant enough to foresee which of your plants will cooperate), or post-register, once you see which late-bloomers live up to their potential.

Either way, your entry will be given a PHS (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society) number. Like the vaunted Social Security number, this is a sacrosanct denominator, one destined to follow you through the life of the Flower Show – as we'll see.

The first stop is the grooming table. This turns out to be reminiscent of back stage at the Miss America pageant, with plenty of primping in progress. To wit: Pull off the dead stuff! Don't let those blossoms droop! Mark the pot to make sure the judges see the "good" side!

What, you thought orchids woke up looking that good?

The plant then proceeds to the passing table. On this horticultural highway, the "passing" zone has lots of merging traffic, break-neck speeds and little chance to enjoy the scenery. Frankly, you're just trying at this point to keep moving and avoid an accident.

The passers make sure the plants haven't brought in any passengers – insects, viruses, fungi. They make sure the vehicle – the pot in which it is grown – conforms to show rules. They measure it (in case it needs to take a detour to the big plant category, the show's equivalent of truck weighing stations.) They also make sure the plant has not crossed the double lines – the ones that put it in the correct entry class.

This all takes place at the same time other plants, new arrivals, are merging onto the expressway. Things get particularly hectic when some growers – you know who you are – decide to switch lanes, er, classes.

The rules of the road are: only three plants per class per grower. The pre-registrants, however, are gambling that the oncidium just beginning to send up a spike in late December will actually be in bloom before the phalaenopsis, which shows no signs whatsoever of being ready at the time

the form is filled out.

Guess which one looks best on the day of the show? Yup, that plucky phal. It's not nice to handicap Mother Nature.

This is where the recorder – that would be me – comes in.

As was painstakingly explained in the 68-page document that PHS sent – and as was further elaborated upon in a 90-minute training session -- our job was to get the paperwork in order.

We had power, or at least green aprons and clipboards. There was one clipboard for each plant class, which means about three dozen clipboards that start out the day neatly aligned in numerical order on a designated table.

Whenever the grower decides to do a switcheroo, the recorder does some accounting that might put an IRS auditor to shame.

1. Grab the clipboard for the class in which the plant was originally entered. This means finding it on the table, which is now not in numerical order.

2. Grab the clipboard for the class the plant is now moving to – provided another recorder isn't using it.



At The Flower Show
Phragmipedium Noirmont 'Charlene'
Grown by Maurice Marietti



At The Flower Show
Paphiopedilum Hybrid
Grown by Frank Heiler



3. Find the PHS entry number on the original clipboard, or write it in if it is an add-on. List the number of the class that the plant will be moving to – a forwarding address.

4. Enter the PHS entry number of the plant on the second clipboard, along with the numerical designation of the class it moved from.

5. Make sure the grower hasn't exceeded the three-entry limit.

6. Record the order in which the plant was entered – say, sixth out of an expected class of 14.

Still with me? The fun has barely begun.

At this point, you also have three index cards to process. Both the order number and the PHS number have to be written in specific places on the cards – woe to those who inscribe the flip side! The name of the grower should be cross-checked for accuracy.

One card stays with the plant. The two other cards are given to a runner, who doesn't even jog. That's a good thing when fragile plants with delicate flowers are multiplying and materializing all around you.

The runner transports the cards to the typist. This person makes sure that the orchid *George Stephanopolis* (a very glib variety first seen at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and more recently appearing on Sunday morning talk shows) not only is spelled correctly, but has a pretty typed nametag. This would be the Holy Grail: the official entry card.

The runner returns. The cards are reunited. Whew!

But yes, there's much more, as the process is repeated. Over and over. Until your feet are so numb that you've forgotten how cold the Convention Center is with the doors open.

Where do all the flowers go? That would be up the stager, the only soldier allowed to actually touch the plants after the passer has given them a salute. The staggers arrange the plants by class, sort of in formation.

"So, did you see lots of pretty orchids?" my husband sweetly asked me later that night.

Orchids? There were orchids? All I remember is clipboards and index cards and too few paper clips and too many numbers.

Not that there weren't compensations. I heard a few fascinating behind-the-scenes exhibitor stories – you won't believe what they hide under all that mulch.

I saw Her Floral Highness – Horticultural Society President Jane Pepper – in person twice, and once, she definitely nodded in my direction. You may now call me Lady Betsy.

And after we "closed the class" (did the final tally of the number of entries, commemorated by the posting of a sticky note), I was able to watch the judging. Some roving crowd controllers held up plastic "do not cross" tape to give these national experts the space to mull in private.

It was pretty much how I imagine it might be to sit in on a Supreme Court deliberation.



At The Flower Show
Laeliocattleya Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'
Grown by Christine Jacoby

But perhaps my proudest moment came when I stood in the back of a crowd after the ribbons had been put on the prize-winning plants.

"I don't think I've ever seen anything like it!" someone exclaimed.

"Look at the form, the integrity," agreed her companion. "That sort of consistency is rare, and comes at great effort."

"Let's take a picture, so we can remember what it's supposed to look like," sighed a third person. "It will inspire us as we prepare for next year."

I smiled.

I like to think that they were talking, of course, about the labels.

P.S. At our last POS meeting, Joe Volpe mentioned a comparatively streamlined system for labeling plants: writing on a plastic tag with a permanent pen. His preferred writing implement is the Sakura Microperm 01, .22 mm size, which sells for \$2.49 on the Internet. Sakura also makes the Identi-Pen Dual Point and the Pigmamicon 0.1 (which can be purchased as A.C. Moore. It must be allowed to dry.) If there is sufficient interest, POS might consider a group order of the Microperm.



At The Flower Show
Sophrholaeliocattleya Hsin Bun Lady 'Y.T.'
Grown by Bayard Saraduke



At The Flower Show
Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland'
Grown by Donna Boyle



Greenhouse & Orchids Sale

Sariel Ablaza is moving soon and selling his greenhouse and orchid collection. Please call Sariel for an appointment if you are interested in the greenhouse and/or orchids:

Sariel Ablaza
801 Albury Court
Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-231-1446
aasquared@comcast.net



Longwood Gardens Show Contact Information

Please contact
Mike Scott or Bayard Saraduke
to arrange for plant drop-off or pick-up:

Mike Scott
856-547-0386
mscott48@comcast.net

Bayard Saraduke
856-303-1662
bayard1@comcast.net



For those members bringing homemade baked goods to our monthly meetings, we ask that you kindly label your item with your name so that our members with food allergies may inquire about the item's ingredients.
Thank you!



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Don't forget to bring your orchid questions to our **Culture Corner** during the refreshment break. Please cover your ailing plant in plastic before bringing it for diagnosis.

Pinelands Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Time Schedule

- 6:30 p.m. Doors open for meeting set up
- 7:00—7:30 Arrival of Show Table Plants
- 7:30—7:45 Business Meeting/Announcements
- 7:45—8:15 Break for Refreshments and "Culture Corner"
- 8:15—9:00 Speaker or Program Presentation
- 9:00—9:30 Show Table Critique
- 9:30—9:45 Raffle