

Pinelands Orchid Society

P.O. Box 954, Voorhees, NJ 08043 December, 2003

Just hear those sleigh bells jingling....well, maybe not yet. However, the holidays are fast approaching, and we will have our annual Holiday Covered-Dish on Tuesday, December 2, 2003, at the Woodland Fire Co., Cherry Hill, NJ. If you have not signed up for a dish, please contact Marge Felton-Balliet at 856-778-5305, or email her at margefelton@weichert.com, and let her know if you are bringing a main course, a side dish or a dessert. The club will provide coffee and sodas.

For the last several years, we have had an expanded raffle at the Holiday Party. If you have a division or a plant you wish to donate, please bring it along to the meeting.

Last call for dues! Our dues are remaining the same-\$15.00 for a single member, and \$20.00 for a family. Dues pay for the newsletter postage and refreshments at the meetings. Please see Christine and Martha at the meeting to pay your dues, and be sure to let them know of any address, phone, or email changes. You can also mail your dues to the mailbox - P.O. Box 954, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

Each month, we seem to have new orchid growers visit, and many of them sign up and become members. Sometimes it is difficult for the officers to get around to all the new faces. We would like to have a person at the door handing out name tags at each meeting, and also a few people who can be available to help along visitors and new members. If you would like to help in greeting new folks and getting them started, please talk to one of the officers-Valerie, Bayard, Christine, or Martha.

Showtime! We have several shows and

events coming up you should be thinking about. First will be the Yuletide Tours of the Fairmount Park Houses. Pinelands will be decorating the Thomas Jefferson Dining Room in Strawberry Mansion. A picture of the room we decorated last year is on the cover of this year's brochure! This is a very different event from other shows. We use 12-15 specimen plants from members in the club, and they are displayed as house plants rather than the usual large naturalistic display we often do. If you have a specimen plant in bloom, please bring it to the meeting on Tuesday. We will be doing the set up at the Park House on Wednesday, December 3rd. The tours begin on Friday, December 5, and run through Wednesday, December 10. These are self-guided tours, and you can access the houses from 10:00 am to 4:45 pm. You can go to the park, start at whichever house you like, and see as many as you can fit in! There are Park House Guides at each house to give you the history of the house and information about the furnishings and decorations. We will have brochures at the meeting, or you can call the Art Museum at 215-684-7509. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$17.00 for Philadelphia Museum of Art members, and \$6.00 for children under 12, and can be purchased at the museum, Lemon Hill Mansion, or the Horticultural Center.

The Philadelphia Flower Show may seem a long way off, but we have several volunteer opportunities, and we'd like you to mark the dates on your calendar. This year's show will run from March 7-14, 2004. Walt Off and Waldor Orchids are the main exhibitors this year. They will be installing the main display that all visitors will pass through as they enter the Show. Bob Taylor is recruiting people to sell orchid lei's. Please talk to Bob if you

would like to help out. Also, the Horticultural Society has asked that people with some orchid knowledge man the information booth in the orchid court. This does not require a great deal of knowledge-questions are often basic, such as “Can I grow that in my house?” and “How long will the flowers last?” and “What kind of dirt should I use?” Volunteers would get a free pass into the show. Please see Maurice Marietti if you would like to help out.

We will also be participating in our usual shows in February, SEPOS and Deep Cut. Now is the time to groom your plants and prepare them for the season!

Events

November 28-30, 2003 Parkside Orchid Nursery Anniversary Sale-10-40%! Also, International Phalaenopsis Alliance will hold a regional meeting at Parkside on Saturday, 11/29. Info:610-847-8039.

December 2, 2003 Pinelands Orchid Society Annual Holiday Covered Dish Extravaganza 7:30 pm at the Woodland Fire Co., Cherry Hill, NJ.

December 5-6, 2003 Waldor Orchids Annual Holiday Sale. 20% off your holiday shopping!

December 5-10, 2003 Yuletide Tours of the Fairmount Park Houses. For information, call 215-684-7509.

December 7, 2003 South Jersey Orchid Society Annual Christmas Banquet. Speaker: Michael Bowell. Information:856-482-2713.

January 6, 2004 Pinelands Orchid Society meeting at 7:30 pm at the Woodland Fire

Co. Cherry Hill, NJ. Program: AOS slide presentation.

January 29-February 1, 2004 Silva Orchids Annual Open House and Sale.

February 3, 2004 Pinelands Orchid Society meeting at 7:30 pm at the Woodland Fire Co. Cherry Hill, NJ Program: An Evening with WildCatt.

February 5-8, 2004 SEPOS Orchid Show and Sale. The Court at King of Prussia Mall. Show and sales open during regular mall hours.

March 7-14, 2004 The 175th Philadelphia Flower Show, *Destination Paradise*.

Officers

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