

Pi Alpha Xi National Lotus Leaflet

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Pi Alpha Xi
The National Honor
Society for Horticulture



Fall 2024

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The mission of Pi Alpha Xi is to promote high scholarship, fellowship, professional leadership and the enrichment of human life through plants.



National Officers 2024–2026

Mark Bridgen, President; Cornell University
Chad Miller, Vice President; Colorado State University
Cole Etheredge, Secretary; Mississippi State University
Ryan Contreras, Past President; Oregon State University

Chapter dues

\$50 are payable in January each year.
Payments should be made out to the order of
and sent to:

PAX
c/o ASHS
Attn: Jane Cerza
1018 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



Picture from Diamondhead at ASHS 2024 Conference in Honolulu. Image taken by Dr. Paporozzi.



Letter from the President...

Pi Alpha Xi is truly fortunate! As of June 1, of this year, we are more than 101 years old! What an amazing accomplishment! I am sure that our Founding Fathers would have been very proud of us.



Last year, in recognition of our 100th anniversary, we established an endowment specifically for Pi Alpha Xi. The objective of this Endowment is to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate students who are active members of Pi Alpha Xi. Students in all active chapters are eligible. The Endowment, which is managed by ASHS, is currently worth almost \$12,000. By using the income from a sustained endowment fund, Pi Alpha Xi National and ASHS are making a long-term commitment to our students. We need to establish a PAX Endowment Committee to oversee these funds; volunteers are needed. Let me know if you would like to be involved.

Last year we launched a fundraising campaign for the PAX Endowment. If you have not already contributed, please consider supporting this worthy cause. We ask that all chapters and members please consider donating to the Pi Alpha Xi Endowment fund. The direct link to that page is: <http://www.pialphaxi.org/pax-scholarship-endowment-fund.html>.

This year we inducted Dr. Stephanie Burnett (Alpha Tau) as a Fellow in PAX. Stephanie is a professor at the University of Maine. The Fellow's Award is given to PAX members who have achieved marked service or excellence in the field of horticulture and/or who have distinguished themselves with meritorious service to PAX. Stephanie deserves this award for her hard work and dedication to our organization both nationally and in her local chapter. She was national president from 2016-2018, and prior to that served as national secretary and vice president.

Let us not forget the objective of Pi Alpha Xi is to promote scholarship, fellowship, professional leadership, and the enrichment of human life through plants. These are some of the ways that we accomplish this objective:

1. As an honor society, PAX recognizes the best horticulture students at our American universities. Our students are recognized at commencement by wearing an honor cord over their graduation regalia.
2. We publish the Horticultural Crops Judging Manual and offer it at no charge to high schools, FFA programs, colleges, and universities.
3. We publish the Lotus newsletter to keep our members informed. (Thank you Vice President, Chad Miller).
4. We annually hold the Paul Thomas Photo Contest. (Thank you Sonja Maki).

If you have any suggestions for the improvement of PAX, please feel free to email me at mpb27@cornell.edu or text/call 631-921-4941.

Thank you,
Mark Bridgen
Alpha Chapter



2024 Pi Alpha Xi Fellow Award

**Dr. Stephanie Burnett
University of Maine**



Dr. Burnett (center) receiving her PAX Fellow Award from Ellen Paporozzi (right), Chair of the Fellows Committee and Chad Miller (left), Vice President.

Stephanie Burnett is Professor of Horticulture at the University of Maine (BS 1997 Auburn University, MS 2000 Auburn University, PhD 2004 in Horticulture at the University of Georgia). She started her career at the University of Maine in 2005.

Over her time there, Dr. Burnett has taught a number of different courses including herbaceous plants, greenhouse management, fruit and vegetable production as well as Introduction to Horticulture – she is a truly a well-rounded horticulturist! Stephanie currently advises undergraduate as well as graduate students all of whom have opportunities to participate in her current research projects which include cut dahlia and hydroponic food production and sustainable greenhouse irrigation and plant propagation using submist systems. She has received over \$195,000 in grants, numerous publications in scientific journals as well as popular press and served on numerous undergraduate honors and well as graduate student committees.

In 2015, Dr. Burnett established the Alpha Tau Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi at the University of Maine. Since that time, the chapter has initiated 42 new members. At the National level, Stephanie has served as Secretary-Treasurer (2012-2014), Editor of the Lotus Leaflet (2014-2016), Photography Contest Judge (2016-2018), Vice-President (2014-2016), President (2016-2018), Immediate Past President (2018-2020) and Past Past President (2021-2023).

Congratulations and thanks for all of your service to Pi Alpha Xi!



2024 Paul Thomas Photography Contest

There were 38 entries in 8 different categories. Thanks to those who submitted entries, to those that volunteered to judge, and to Dr. Sonja Maki (University of Wisconsin--River Falls) for coordinating this effort.

Categories are as follows with number of submissions.

Perfect Partners (1)	PAX 100th Anniversary (2)
Garden Visitors (12)	Flowering Plants with Attitude (7)
Serendipity (3)	Horticulture in Production (8)
Photo micrography (3)	Altered Images (1)

Category: Perfect Partners

First Prize

Title: Pocket Prairie and Pollinator Garden

Caption: A pocket prairie and pollinator garden demonstrating the native plants of the Louisiana Cajun Prairie, LSU Wilson Lab planted by students from the LSU School of Art and Design, Landscape Architecture degree programs.

Photographer: Jennifer Blanchard, Louisiana State University





Category: Pi Alpha Xi 100th Anniversary

First Place

Title: A Louisiana Flower Farm

Caption: Leah Latiolais, her two sons, and her dog can be seen entering the flower farm. She has been flower farming in Louisiana for 8 years and her two sons are her assistants. Leah has a B.S. in Ecology from Southeastern University, and the name of her farm is Northshore Natives.

Photographer: Jennifer Blanchard, Louisiana State University

Second Place

Title: Growth in Unity

Caption: This group photo captures the essence of unity and growth, with a vibrant vine plant weaving its way through the gathering.

Photographer: Suroj Berlakoti, Utah State University





Category: Garden Visitors



First Place

Title: Working Bee

Caption: Garden Bee-havior!

Photographer: Xiomara Sotomayor,
Delaware Valley University

Third Place

Title: *Grylloprociphilus imbricator* (beech blight aphid/boogie-woogie aphid) on *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech) in Grayling, Michigan, September 27, 2023

Caption: Boogie-Woogie Beech Boys of Company Tree

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



Second Place

Title: *Mantis religiosa* (praying mantid) on *Passiflora incarnata* (maypop) x *P. caerulea* (blue passionflower) intertwined with *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Carolina jessamine), Picayune, MS, September 9, 2023

Caption: Hop on Pop!

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



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Category: Flowering Plants with an Attitude!



First Place

Title: Life finds a way

Caption: Even in the harshest environments life flourishes and colors the landscape.

Photographer: Saroj Burlakoti, Utah State University



Second Place

Title: *Ficus aurea* (strangler fig) on *Taxodium distichum* (bald cypress), Florida Everglades. Naples, FL, December 19, 2017

Caption: Out of the Depths of the Florida Swamps: Bald and Strangled!

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



Third Place

Title: *Ferocactus wislizeni* (fishhook barrel cactus/candy barrel cactus) with fruit, Tucson, Arizona, April 3, 2024

Caption: Fishing for Fruit from the Candy Barrel

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



Category: Serendipity



First Place

Title: Golden Hour Glimpse

Caption: Bathed in the warm hues of the setting sun, this fleeting golden hour captures the vibrant glow of Ginkgo leaves against a timeless architectural drop.

Photographer: Srijana Thapa Magar, Kentucky State University

Third Place

Title: *Camelia japonica* flowering in rare MS Gulf Coast snow, Picayune, MS, December 9, 2017

Caption: Karma, Karma, Karma Camelia, You Come with Snow...

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



Second Place

Title: Chassepareille blanche *P. incarnata*

Caption: Medicinal Plants of the United Houma Nation, Louisiana: Chassepareille blanche (*Passiflora incarnata*) White Sarsaparilla, LSU Medicinal Plant Demonstration Garden Hill Farm Teaching Facility

Photographer: Jennifer Blanchard, Louisiana State University





Category: Horticulture in Production



First Place

Title: Gentle Breeze in a Young Prune Orchard

Caption: A uniform young prune orchard with grasses in the row-middle.

Photographer: Luke Milliron, UC Cooperative Extension



Second Place

Title: Pineapple: The Guardian of the Hawaii

Caption: For many years, Hawaii provided over 80% of the world's canned pineapple supply. Today, the state contributes only about 1% of global pineapple production, but it remains an iconic symbol of the islands and a significant part of our modern history.

Photographer: Ya-Ting Chang, Univ. of Hawaii-Manoa



Third Place

Title: Variety Variability

Caption: This photo demonstrates variability of the Zinnia cultivar 'Queenly Lime Blush' produced using soilless and hydroponic methods in a greenhouse as part of graduate student research at the University of Maine. The cut flowers in this photo have been processed for consistency and are randomly sorted into treatments to observe vase life.

Photographer: Jacob Schwab, Univ. of Maine

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Category: Photomicrography



First Place

Title: "A Fungus Among Us"

Caption: *Sclerotium rolfsii* (teleomorph: *Athelia rolfsii*) on Spearmint (*Mentha spicata* L.). The sclerotia on dying vegetative matter under microscope.

Photographer: Jennifer Blanchard, Louisiana State University

Third Place

Title: Tumbleweed Blossom

Caption: Tumbleweeds do have a flowers and they are very tiny.

Photographer: Edith Isidoro, Garden of Edith



Second Place

Title: Tumbleweed Bloom After the Frost

Caption: Tumbleweed Blossoms after the first frost.

Photographer: Edith Isidoro, Garden of Edith





Category: Altered Images



First Place

Title: *Carnegiea gigantea* (giant saguaro cactus; pronounced suh-waa-row) under the waning crescent March moon, Tucson, Arizona, April 3, 2024

Caption: Suh-waa-rowing Lunar March of the Giants

Photographer: Richelle Stafne



BEST IN SHOW

Title: Working Bee

Caption: Garden Bee-havior!

Photographer: Xiomara Sotomayor, Delaware Valley University



Chapter Activities



Alpha Chapter at Cornell University inducted new PAX members on April 25, 2024.

47 new members were inducted; the most new inductees this chapter has ever had.



Photos from the induction ceremony and dinner that followed.

New members stand to be inducted.



New members receive a beautiful orchid plant after the ceremony.



Graduating seniors receive an Honor Cord to wear at commencement.



Pi Alpha Xi Judging Manual

A reminder to all of our chapters, the Pi Alpha Xi judging manual was recently updated, in light of our 100th Anniversary!

AND...we made it a free resource! So if you are doing any crop judging in your curriculum, OR, if you work closely with local high schools or community colleges, be sure to share this valuable resource with them!

Click here to go directly to the link!



Pi Alpha Xi
**Horticulture
Crops
Judging
Manual**

12th Edition Horticulture Crops Judging Manual

Pi Alpha Xi Endowment to support student scholarships!

Pi Alpha Xi and ASHS have joined together to establish the Pi Alpha Xi National Endowment Fund. This Fund is to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate students who are active members of Pi Alpha Xi.

In the future, scholarships will be important not only to aid students financially but also reinforce our recognition of excellence in horticulture. This is embodied by our motto, Always to Excel. Click on the photo below to go directly to the PAX Endowment Page...and donate today!





Pi Alpha Xi
Statement of Activities
July 2023 - June 2024

INCOME

New Initiate Fees	\$	5,005.00
Cords & Pins	\$	1,002.10
Dues	\$	510.00
Photo Contest	\$	230.00
Endowment Contributions	\$	1,310.00
Total Income	\$	8,057.10

EXPENSES

Certificates	\$	2,218.22
Copier & Postage	\$	281.32
Credit Card/ Administrative Fees	\$	5,187.53
Photo Contest	\$	240.00
Scholarship	\$	400.00
Website Host	\$	144.00
Total Expenses	\$	8,471.07

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$ (413.97)



Pi Alpha Xi
Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Checking Account- Truist	\$ 44,890.94
Receivable from ASHS	\$ 421.96
Pi Alpha Xi Endowment	\$ 11,759.18
Total Assets	<u>\$ 57,072.08</u>

LIABILITIES

Payable to ASHS	\$ 8,431.22
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 8,431.22</u>

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 36,881.68
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 11,759.18
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 48,640.86</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 57,072.08</u>
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