

**Pi Alpha Xi**  
The National Honor Society  
for Horticulture

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**  
**1923-2023**

*For more information, contact President, Mark Bridgen  
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# Pi Alpha Xi



## MISSION:

- To foster good fellowship between students, educators, and professional horticulturists.
- To promote scholarship, fellowship, professional leadership and the enrichment of human life through plants.

## ACTIVITIES:

- Annual national Photography Contest
- Scholarships for student members
- PAX Honor Cords for commencement to recognize scholastic excellence
- Individual chapters have various activities: growing plants, flower sales, banquets, etc.



The Paul Thomas  
*Pi Alpha Xi*  
Digital Photo Contest

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2023 Results



# Perfect Partners

These images represent what the photographer believes to be outstanding plant combinations. These can be container, bed or floral design compositions. The images should show clearly how two plant partners are being used.



**Category:** Perfect Partners

**Third Place:**

**Title:** Flamethrower Redbud  
Foliage

**Caption:**

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware





**Category:** Perfect Partners

**Second Place:**

**Title:** *Uniola Paniculata* (sea oats) and *Coccoloba Uvifera* (seagrape) Bordering a Parking Lot Near the Atlantic Ocean.

**Caption:** Two if by Sea by the Sea by the Sea

**Photographer:**  
Richelle A. Stafne







**Category:** Perfect Partners

**First Place:**

**Title:** Purple Coneflowers

**Caption:** Echinacea Echo

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware



# Pi Alpha Xi 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Images that exemplify the mission of Pi Alpha Xi: to promote scholarship, fellowship, professional leadership, and the enrichment of human life through plants. Photos of PAX Plant sales, research, field days, group activities, teaching, etc. would be appropriate



**Category:** Pi Alpha Xi 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Third Place**

**Title:** For Whom the Applicator (Bell)  
Tolls: Tree Predating US Civil War Suffers  
Slow Death From Herbicide  
Misapplication

**Caption:** This black oak predates the civil war and was severely injured by a misapplication of herbicide for invasive plant control. You can see the section in the foreground has been removed due to the death of that part of the tree. The section in the background is still in slow decline, four years after the front section was removed by cutting. It is anticipated that this tree will die in the next 3-4 years. With too many urban and forest fragment trees dying due to misapplication of herbicides by applicators who have an inappropriate understanding of how herbicides work in the plant and in the soil, this is what is left for us now but what will be left for future generations?

**Photographer:** Hannah Mary Mathers,  
Mathers Environmental Science  
Services, LLC





**Category:** Pi Alpha Xi 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Second Place**

**Title: Pineapple for All!**

**Caption:** Pineapple Diversity. Students at University of Wisconsin-River Falls visit producer field in Puerto Rico and learn first hand all about producing pineapples (from planting, to pests, varieties, and market).

**Photographer:** Yoana Newman,  
University of Wisconsin-River  
Falls





**Category:** Pi Alpha Xi 100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

**First Place**

**Title: Cacao Hands**

**Caption:** Students from University of Wisconsin-River Falls visit Puerto Rico to learn about tropical plants including 'Cacao' (*Theobroma cacao* L.). Here, they are displaying Cocoa pods ready to be processed for chocolate and other products.

**Photographer:** Yoana  
Newman, University of  
Wisconsin-River Falls





# Garden Visitors

These images should include gardens, landscapes or plants sharing their space with people or insects. Examples include insects and pollinators, people or pets, or wildlife in the garden. Images that include people must include a model release form.



**Category:** Garden Visitors

**Third Place:**

**Title:** Grandiose Tropical Forest

**Caption:** Inspired by Yunque tropical rainforest... depicted is recent UWRF horticulturalist graduate Shannon Murphy...reflecting on the past and future!

**Photographer:** Yoana Newman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls





**Category:** Garden Visitors

**Second Place**

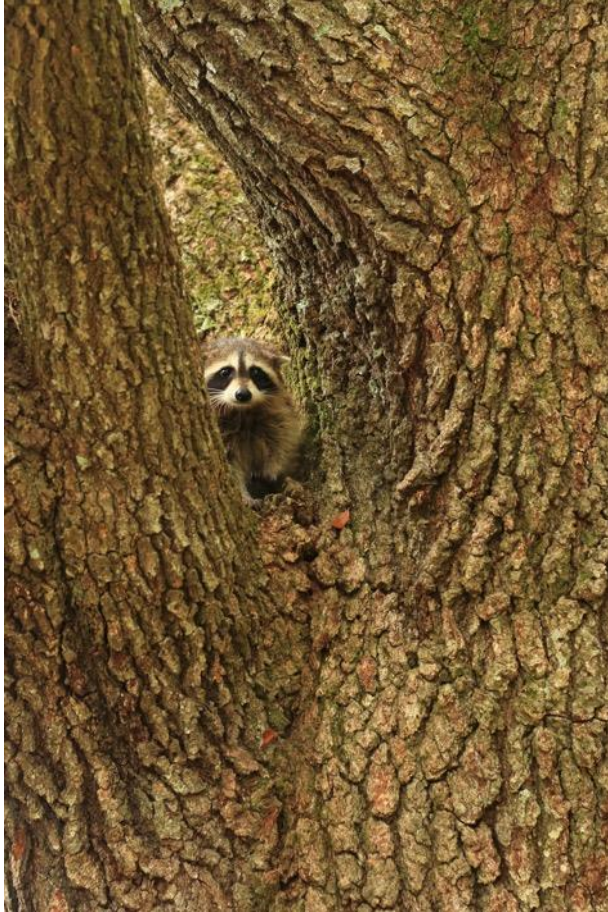
**Title:** When the Garden Becomes "the Right Place at the Wrong Time."

**Caption:** Nature is not always nice.

**Photographer:**

Dr. Kathryn Fontenot,  
Louisiana State University,  
LSU AgCenter





**Category:** Garden Visitors

**First Place**

**Title:** Quercus spp. (southern Mississippi native oak seedling transplanted to home landscape in 1989) and Young Procyon Lotor (common racoon) in Picayune, MS

**Caption:** The Bark is Worse Than the Bite

**Photographer:** Richelle A. Stafne





# Flowering Plants with Attitude!

We've all seen pansies growing out of sidewalk cracks, or native flowers growing on rock surfaces. This category is for any horticultural plant growing in an audacious, amazing or inconceivable way. Examples include extremely large plant specimens, huge colonies or a lone survivor clinging to life in some inhospitable place.



**Category:** Flowering Plants  
with Attitude!

**Third Place**

**Title:** Tiger Swallowtail

**Caption:** Swallowtail on Joe  
Pye Weed

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware





**Category:** Flowering Plants  
with Attitude!

**Second Place:**

**Title:** Windswept Sunflower

**Caption:**

Giant sunflowers facing  
headwinds

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware





**Category:** Flowering Plants  
with Attitude!

**First Place:**

**Title:** Flamboyant Magnolia

**Caption:**

Wide open southern  
magnolia

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware



# Serendipity

Sometimes the perfect photography is by chance. This category is for that random shot that was unplanned but exemplifies horticulture.





**Category:** Serendipity

**Third Place**

**Title:** Guardian of the Shade

**Caption:** Majestic Rainbow Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*) used as a shade tree for growing coffee in Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Yoana Newman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls





**Category:** Serendipity

**Second Place**

**Title:** Solomon's Seal after Rain

**Caption:**

A close up of Solomon's Seal after a shower.

**Photographer:** Steven Newman, Newman Events and Consulting, LLC





**Category:** Serendipity

**First Place**

**Title:** Reflections

**Caption:**

Early morning cup of coffee on the deck, turned and saw the guttation on the yellow walking iris [*Trimezia longifolia* (syn. *Neomarica longifolia*)]. After taking the photo, I noticed the reflection of the foliage in the droplet. Truly a serendipitous find.

**Photographer:** Mary Lewnes Albrecht, University of Tennessee



# Horticulture in Production

The images in this category represent the core of academic horticulture in action. These images can be from farms, greenhouses, or research plots such as might be used in classroom or extension presentations.



**Category:** Horticulture in Production

**Third Place**

**Title:** One Stem. Four Colors. Abelia

**Caption:** Phenotyping new Abelia hybrids at the University of Georgia

**Photographer:** Leynar Leyton Naranjo, University of Georgia





RED-PURPLE  
GROUP

A

B

C

143

GREEN  
GROUP

C

B

152

YELLOW-GREEN  
GROUP

C

B

A

BLACK  
WHITE  
GROUPS



Royal  
Horticultural  
Society  
Fifth Edition



**Category:** Horticulture in Production

**Second Place**

**Title:** Between Red and Green with a Bit of Muck

**Caption:** A leafy vegetable field in the Everglades Agricultural Area in southern Florida.

**Photographer:**

Germán V Sandoya- Miranda,  
University of Florida EREC



**Category:** Horticulture in Production

**First Place**

**Title:** Midsouth (Vitis hybrid) Harvest Morning at the Mississippi State University, McNeill Research Station.

**Caption:** Mid-summer Mid-morning Amid 'Midsouth' in McNeill, Mississippi

**Photographer:** Richelle A. Stafne





# Altered Images

Photographs manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects (i.e., stacking, colorizing, toning, collage, photo composites, HDR, etc.). Please provide a brief description of the steps used to create the image for others to learn new techniques.



**Category:** Altered Images

**Second Place**

**Title:** White Pine in the  
Bridgers

**Caption:** This is a stippled image of a white pine taken from the trail hiking down from the Sacagawea peak in the Bridger Mountains outside of Bozeman MT. This is a very old specimen found just above tree line. The view is looking east with Battle Ridge just coming into view.

**Photographer:**

Steven Newman, Newman  
Events and Consulting, LLC







**Category:** Altered Images

**First Place**

**Title:** *Liriodendron Tulipifera*  
with Headstone in Sleepy  
Hollow, NY.

**Caption:**

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust

**Photographer:** Richelle A.  
Stafne



# Best in Show



**Category:** Flowering Plants  
with Attitude!

**Title:** Flamboyant Magnolia

**Caption:** Wide open southern  
magnolia

**Photographer:** Robert E.  
Lyons, University of Delaware



# Thank you all for your photo submissions!

- We'll see you next year in Hawaii!
- Please consider entering your favorite photos in the 2024 Paul Thomas Pi Alpha Xi Photography Contest!
- Let's celebrate horticulture in Hawaii with our photos!

