

# The Sheath

## January General Meeting

Date: January 25, 2008

Time: 7:45 PM General Meeting

Place: San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA

Take the Alameda de las Pulgas exit off of Hwy. 92.  
The Garden Center is located between 26th and 28th  
Avenues

Mailing address: P.O. Box 6894, San Mateo, CA  
94403-6894

Skill Session by Anna  
Chai - 7:00 PM

Anna will talk about  
growing terrestrial orchids.

Meeting plus Show  
and Tell Table - 7:45  
PM followed by

Speaker: Ron Parsons  
- Orchids of Crete

Opportunity table by  
Anna Chai

### Orchids of Crete

We are pleased to have **Ron Parsons** as our speaker and are looking forward to seeing his wonderful slides from his visit to Crete.

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids, wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 slides! Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers in situ, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts collections, and most of all, to take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes. Ron's photos have been featured in journal articles, book covers and in many different books. His photography was recently featured in two books that he co-authored: *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* (by Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons, Timber Press 2005); and *Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies and Their Relatives* (Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons, Timber Press 2007). Ron and Mary are now working on a

third book, *Rare and Unusual Orchid Species*. Of course, to feature rare and unusual orchid species requires lots of field research, and one of Ron's field trips is the subject of this lecture.

Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, is situated in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. This beautiful island is approximately 250 kilometers long and 56 kilometers wide at most and only 12 kms wide at its narrowest point. The island is like a giant rock garden, with many beautiful plants (and far too many goats!) growing in its stony soils. Many of these are endemic to the island. Where the orchids are found, they can be very numerous in both species and quantity. There are more than 60 species of orchids here, many of them very variable, several with regional subspecies. There are lots of natural hybrids also, making identification difficult. This talk features the orchids (as well as some of the other beautiful wildflowers) seen on a trip there in the middle of April, 2007.

For more information about Ron and his photography, and to see more of his photographs, please see Ron's website: <http://www.flowershots.net>

## President's Corner

It is the beginning of a new year, and with it we have a new board of directors and slate of officers for the Peninsula Orchid Society. At this juncture, I also look back on the past year, and wish to express my thanks to Dennis Olivas for his great job as president, most importantly, to Mary Jensen and Rene Biggs for their many years of service and contribution in various positions on the board of the Peninsula Orchid Society. I look forward to my new role as President, and the coming year has many important milestones for the POS. Our first priority is to complete our 501 (c)3 application, qualifying our society as a not-for-profit, charitable organization. A second will be to convert our newsletter to an electronic form, which will give us greater flexibility in page length, the possibility to include color photos, and more. I look forward to working with our new Sheath Editor, Chaunie Langland in this new venture. I am sure that Chaunie will be receptive to new "staff writers" for the newsletter, should there are any aspiring journalists among our members! And a third, and critical goal to ensure continued success of our society is to involve more of our membership in the ongoing activities and functions of the POS.

We will continue our usual society activities such as greenhouse tour, auction and show and further, welcome additional input from our members as to how the society can serve the needs of the members in a more productive manner. Over the next few months the board will be discussing additional activities and roles for the society and I will introduce these to you as they develop. One of my personal goals is to find ways for the POS to play a more active role in orchid conservation, and we hope to have at least one lecture on the topic this year. I look forward to working with my new vice-president, Mike Rector, who is busily planning an interesting line up of speakers. Despite the "Storm of the Century", we had a wonderful Annual Show, and I want to thank all of those members, their friends and families for their help in putting on the show even with the help of some very eventful weather.

To a great 2008!

Mary Gerritsen

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## New look for the newsletter

Hi all,

I had planned to slide into this newsletter using Rene's format - as I was recently told, nobody likes change except babies in diapers. Rene did a great job developing her format and it flows very well. However, I don't have compatible software, so here we go - right into a new look. I am still trying to get control of this software (Mac Pages '07) so please bear with me as I learn how to put out a newsletter.

I want to thank Rene for all of her years (12!) of producing the newsletter, all of her years of service on the board, and all of the things she does for the club - show set-up, making fabulous toffee to pass out at the show and attract new members (both with the toffee and with her warm personality), working at the computer during the annual auction, and countless other jobs. (If you want to try to count some of them, check out how many times she appeared in the show committee chair list.) We are very lucky to have her as a member and an inspiration. I had the pleasure of touring her greenhouse and I can also say she is a very good orchid grower!!

May your favorite orchids always bloom in time for the show, Chaunie

## Upcoming Events

**January 18 - Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers 2008 Auction** - San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, 7 PM. Once a year, members bring past award winning cymbidium and other specie orchids to the auction. People travel far and wide to get such hard to obtain and rare cultivars.

**January 26-27 - Santa Cruz Orchid Society and Soquel High FFA/ROP Show and Sale** - Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel. Saturday 9AM-5PM. Sunday 10AM-4PM. AOS judged show.

**February 2-3 - Sonoma County Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. Saturday 10AM-5PM. Sunday 10AM-4PM. Admission \$7.00. For more information visit [www.sonomaorchids.com](http://www.sonomaorchids.com)

**February 8, 9, 10 - Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale** - Orange County Fair & Expo Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. Admission \$5. For more information visit [ocorchidshow.com/](http://ocorchidshow.com/)

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## Calling all Ribbon Judge Volunteers for Pacific Orchid Exposition

San Francisco Orchid Society is looking for volunteers to participate in ribbon and trophy judging at the Pacific Orchid Exposition this year. Judging takes place on Thursday, February 28; volunteers need to be available from around 11 am through 4 pm (lunch is provided). Familiarity with orchid genera, the categories for judging at POE, and a cooperative, friendly outlook are very helpful. To learn more, or to volunteer, contact Cindy Hill, [clhill@pacbell.net](mailto:clhill@pacbell.net), (510) 524-1854, by February 15.

## POS Library Opportunities

Rex Castell, our friendly librarian, has several projects he would like to undertake in the library, but he needs some volunteers to assist him. If you are willing to put in a few hours to make some worthwhile ideas become reality, please contact Rex. (Contact info at end of newsletter.)

## Meeting Refreshments

Earn a free strip of Opportunity Table Tickets by bringing refreshments to any of the meetings! Your fellow members love all kinds of goodies - just ask Rex, who manned the show kitchen. Please see either Olga Ostrovsky or Rebecca Grubbs for your "thank-you" strip of opportunity tickets!

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## February Board Meeting

The February Board meeting will be held on Wednesday the 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Jocelyn Jamias home, 24855 Summerhill Ave., Los Altos. The board meetings are open to all members and we'd like to encourage you to attend. If you have any issue that you'd like brought to the board, but cannot attend, you can call any board member and they will present your issue for you.

*The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly* - January 5-6 2008 POS Show Results!*P.O.S. Members only*

**Barbara Todd Kennedy Trophy:** Best Flower in Show (flower only)

Lycaste skinneri alba 'Golden Gate'  
Golden Gate Orchids

**Katherine Jason Trophy:** Best Species (flower or plant)

Maxillaria callichroma 'Cat Scratch Fever'  
Cal Orchids

**Vallemar Gardens Trophy:** Best Flower in Show, Grown by a Novice or Intermediate (flower only)

Slc Momilani Rainbow  
Tanya Lam

**Lil Severin Trophy:** Best miniature species under 8 inches in height, including blooms (flower or plant)

Aeranis hyaloides  
Tom Mudge

**Clar Hancock Memorial Trophy:** Best culture of orchid plant by Novice or Intermediate Grower (flower or plant)

Cymbidium Moira 'Del Norte'  
Christine Kradjian

**Kay Rinaman Memorial Trophy:** Best Cypripedium Alliance in Show (flower only)

Paphiopedilum Bruno 'Model' AM/AOS  
Golden Gate Orchids

**P.O.S. Perpetual Trophy:** Judges Choice (flower or plant-limited to all Blue Ribbon plants NOT previously receiving a trophy)

Ida portillae  
White Oak Orchids

*All Entries Eligible*

**Best First Bloom Seedling Trophy**

Odontocidium Oncidium chrysomorphum x Odontioda (Glyndebourne Cherubino x Wearside Pattern) - Golden Gate Orchids

**Best Specimen Trophy (flower or plant)**

Dendrochillum tenellum - Golden Gate Orchids

**American Orchid Society Awards**

Plant name	Grower	Award	Points
Denorochilum javieriense	White Oak Orchids	CCM	84
Pot. Sweet Amy 'Margaret'	Kreg Martin	HCC	75
Oda. Nicherei Sunrise	Golden Gate Orchids	AM	83
Wilsonara unregistered hybrid 'Jake'	Golden Gate Orchids	HCC	76
Lycaste skinneri alba 'Golden Gate'	Golden Gate Orchids	HCC	77
Cym. Morea 'Del Norte'	Christine Kradjian	CCM	80

**CSA Award - Mem. David W. McLean Award of Distinction** to *Paphiopedilum Macabre*  
grown by Boomers Orchid Ark

## Winners of Best of Class!

Category	P Plant Name	Grower
<b>Open</b>		
Cattleya	Blc. Nachochee	Napa Valley Orchids
Cymbidium	Cym. Unreg. Sussex Court	Angelic Nguyen/Orchid Design
Odontoglossum alliance	Onc. McBeanianium	Golden Gate Orchids
Paphiopedilum	Paph. Bruno	Golden Gate Orchids
Pleurothallid alliance	Masd. Highland Fling	Golden Gate Orchids
Dendrobium alliance	Dend. Mingles Sapphire	Napa Valley Orchids
Misc. division	Lyc. skinneri alba	Cal Orchids
<b>Advanced</b>		
Cattleya	Slc. Kiawai Starbright 'Highland'	Amy & Ken Jacobsen
Cymbidium	Cym. canaliculatum 'Uniser'	Weegie Caughlan
Odontoglossum alliance	Zelenkoa onusta	Kreg Martin
Vandaceous alliance (ex. Phal.)	Aerangis hyaloides	Tom Mudge
Phalaenopsis	Phal. hangenensis	Tom Mudge
Pleurothallid alliance	Masd. brachyura	Anna Chai
Dendrobium alliance	Den. Lasianthera 'Pirovette'	Kreg Martin
Misc. division	Ddc. cootosii	Kreg Martin
<b>Intermediate</b>		
Cattleya	Blc. Momilani Rainbow	Tanya Lam
Cymbidium	Cym. Moira 'Del Norte'	Christine Kradjian
Odontoglossum alliance	Onc. Twinkle	Sung Lee
Paphiopedilum	Phrag. Grande 'Cinnibar'	Mary Gerritsen
Pleurothallid alliance	Masd. strobelli	Sung Lee
Dendrobium alliance	Dend. Roy Tokunaga x Wonder Nishii	Sue Rose
Misc. division	Cyc. Taiwan 'Orchis'	Greg Corrales

Category	P Plant Name	Grower
<b>Novice</b>		
Cattleya	C. Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS	Carol Zoltowski
Cymbidium	Cym. erythraeon 'Paradise'	Judy Wilson
Odontoglossum alliance	Brs. Edvah Loo 'Nishida' HCC/AOS	Carol Zoltowski
Paphiopedilum	Paph. Jason Fischer	Chaunie Langland
Vandaceous alliance	Tuberolabium kotense	Carol Zoltowski
Pleurothallid alliance	Masd. velafera	Carol Zoltowski
Dendrobium alliance	Dend. Maiden Charlotte	Jackie Becker
Misc. division	Ddc. cootsii	Carol Zoltowski

## Know your Board

### Getting to know the new Board and Officers of POS

**Mary Gerritsen**, President. Mary has been growing orchids on and off for over 20 years, although she has been seriously addicted for only the last ten (since joining the POS in 1997). Her collection numbers well over 1000 plants and is a mixture of different species and hybrids, grown in one very small greenhouse, all over Mary's house (and office at work), and in three outdoor lath structures. Her favorites are Masdevallias, Bulbophyllums and Dendrobiums. In recent years, Mary discovered a new hobby, writing books. With her co-author and photographer (and fellow POS member) Ron Parsons, Mary now has two published books: Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World, and Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their relatives. Mary and Ron are now working on their third book "Rare and Unusual Orchids of the World". Mary has visited Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and Australia to see orchids in situ and hopes to visit more localities in the near future. In addition, she has seen many of the California terrestrial orchids in their native habitats. Mary's goals for the POS for 2008: to encourage new members to get involved with POS activities and board functions and to finally get the POS 501c3 status. When Mary is not growing orchids or writing about them, she works in the biotech industry discovering new drugs for cancer.

**Mike Rector**, Vice President. Mike has been growing orchids with his wife Janet for about 20 years. Thanks to the POS they now have a better idea about how to accomplish this. They have a small greenhouse full of a variety of warm growing orchids and recently have expanded to Bulbophyllums and are having some luck. They especially enjoy Cattleya and Vanda orchids. Mike and Jan have been members of the POS for some years and have enjoyed all of the lessons and then lessons learned in the greenhouse. Mike's goal for the POS for 2008 is to have the society a benefit to all that attend. Mike works as an international telecom consultant.

**Dennis Olivas**, Past President, and Board Member. Dennis will serve as an advisor to the elected officers and board members. He has been growing orchids for more than 45 years, and likes to grow almost everything, although he loves species just a little better than hybrids. His favorites are *Laelia purpurata* and *Laelia anceps*. Dennis grows an uncountable number of

orchids, somewhere between 8000 and 10,000, although he is not really sure! Most are grown in his unheated 3000 sq foot greenhouse in Half Moon Bay and thus his growing philosophy is “survival of the fittest!”. He has been a member of the POS since 1987. Dennis works as a Senior Information Management Specialist, working in a corporate library.

**Fred Shull**, Board Member. Fred has been a member of POS for over 25 years and enjoyed every year. He has been growing orchids for about 45 years with several hundred (or thousand) orchid plants. Fred has always thought of POS as being the best Orchid Society in the Bay Area. Interesting speakers, always a great display table but most of all are the friendly members who make all members feel welcomed. Refreshments too are always good. Fred describes himself as an “out-of-control” hobbyist. His main area of interest is in the Cattleya alliance. Fred has been fortunate to visit Brazil on many different occasions to view orchid expositions and to see orchids growing in their natural habitat. Fred hopes we can continue working together, encouraging and recruiting new members, to keep POS as the outstanding and friendly orchid society.

**Scott Dallas**, Board Member. Scott joined the POS about 28 years ago, initially to learn more about orchids. He now has a collection of thousands of orchids, and is the owner of White Oak Orchids (Pacifica, CA). He likes to grow many different types of orchids, and has cool, intermediate and warm growing species and hybrids in his collection. He has traveled to Mexico and parts of the US to see orchids in situ. Scott’s specific objective as a member of the board is to educate the membership about the realities of the business of orchids. When he is not caring for his orchids, he likes to sleep (don’t we all!), listen to music, and watch movies.

**Sue Rose**, Treasurer. Sue has been growing orchids for about 5 years, and has been a member of the POS for the same length of time. She has about 160 orchids, and one small greenhouse, with a new one on the way this spring. Her goal is to get new people to join the board this year and to come up with new ideas to stimulate membership and participation. She is the grandmother of 6 (soon to be 7) and this year her family has also grown with the addition of Kosmo, her new dog. Lucky for the POS, she is a retired business systems manager with a background in accounting.

**Ken Jacobsen** is a new director on the POS board, and has been a member of POS for 7 or 8 years, and has been growing orchids for almost 40 years. He had been looking for a good orchid society for some years, and when he visited the POS show and a meeting years ago, it seemed the perfect match. With his wife Amy, Ken has over 5000 orchids. Although many people think of him as a ‘Cymbidium person’ (and he does have nearly 3000 cymbidiums), together with Amy he also grows Cattleyas, Laelias, Odontoglossums, Oncidiums, Lycastes, Masdevallias, Stanhopeas, Vandas, and other genera. Ken and Amy have found that visiting orchids in their native habitat often leads to better culture and growing success. They’ve made several trips to see orchids in the wild, including rupicolous Laelias in the province of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and Sophronitis several hours from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Several other South American locations are in their future travel plans. Ken was formerly an executive in a couple of Silicon Valley firms and is now trying to start his own venture with special imaging software. Some day, this software might even be applied to orchids!

**Jocelyn Jamias** is returning for her 3rd year as Corresponding Secretary. A member since 2006, Jocelyn has a small orchid collection living in her dining room, kitchen window and covered patio. She currently has approximately 100 orchids which will triple in number this spring when she finally divides and repots all those cymbidiums! She grows mostly Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums and Phalaenopsis—although her favorite orchid is the Maxillaria

tenuifolia (coconut orchid). As a member of the Board, her goal is directed towards the bottom line--increasing both our membership and cash reserves so as to continue to provide our society members with the high quality speakers and events they have become accustomed to in the last few years. When she is not busy watering and fertilizing (weekly, weakly), Jocelyn likes to work out at the gym 6 days a week, read books and knit. She also manages to fit in a full time job in Commercial Real Estate Sales for NAI BT Commercial in Palo Alto.

**Su McMurtry** has served various functions for the POS over the last 15 years. This is the first time she has served as membership chair. Su been growing orchids for about 20 years, and over the years have changed her love from the really warm growers to a more cool crowd. She still loves the tiny little species, but finds the most success these days with paphs and their cousins. She now grows her orchids in Belmont in her dad's greenhouse. Su visits her orchids once a week, and they have to be hardy to go without daily visits.

**Rebecca Grubbs**, Recording Secretary and Refreshment Chairperson with Olga Ostrovsky. Rebecca has been growing/killing orchids for the past 3 years. She takes a little comfort from Rory Nakata's comment that you may kill about 500+ orchids before you learn enough to be good at growing them. Rebecca grows her orchids in the house and covered patio. Because she lives in Half Moon Bay, cool growing orchids may become her favorite. She has been a member of POS for 2 years. Rebecca works for Mills High School as a teacher and teacher aide in special education.

**Chaunie Langland** has experience writing technical reports and horse show programs. This was close enough to get her the job of newsletter editor. (Um, maybe the competition wasn't too fierce.) Chaunie came to the 199? POS show at her mother-in-law's invitation and was instantly assimilated into the POS via the force of the members' cheerful personalities and enthusiasm for orchids. She now has a 6'x8' greenhouse, in her backyard in Fremont, which she struggles to keep under 100° F much of the year. Her main focus is phrags, but she loves to win plants from the opportunity table to try new varieties and is easily infatuated with almost anything in bloom. Chaunie spends her weekdays doing materials analysis for a hard drive company using ESCA, AES, and SEM. (You don't want to know. Really.)

### 2008 Board of Directors/Chairpersons

President: Mary Gerritsen 650-348-6492	Vice President: Mike Rector 650-366-3401
Treasurer: Sue Rose 650-322-9853	Rec. Secretary: Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037
Corr. Secretary: Jocelyn Jamias 650-678-6575	Ways & Means CP: Brett Francis 650-369-2329
Membership CP: Su McMurtry 650-367-7515	Director at Large: Scott Dallas 650-355-8767
Director at Large: Ken Jacobsen 650-508-8308	Director at Large: Dennis Olivas 925-969-1246
Director at Large: Fred Shull 510-569-9940	Librarian: Rex Castell 650-576-4637
Property Officer: Gary Jones 408-848-3739	AOS Rep: Dennis Olivas 925-969-1246
Refreshment Chairpersons: Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037 & Olga Ostrovsky 650-631-0218	
Sheath Editor: Chaunie Langland 510-494-8850 <a href="mailto:the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net">the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net</a>	
Web Editors: Fred Cox 650-321-3542 & Scott Forrest 650-726-5460	
Website address: <a href="http://penorchidsoc.org">http://penorchidsoc.org</a>	Mailing Address: P.O.Box 6894 San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

2008 Peninsula Orchid Society  
Membership Application or Renewal

Mail to: Su McMurtry  
546 Hillside Road  
Emerald Hills, CA 94062-3345

***Su will be at the table at the back of the room during the January meeting if you would like to renew your membership at the meeting.***

**New for this year** - please be sure to include the e-mail address to which you would like to have your copy of The Sheath sent. Please write "None" if you do not have an e-mail address. Your e-mail address will not be sold or given out.

Member Information (Please Print):

Name(s)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note: We really need your current e-mail address - we will soon be sending The Sheath via e-mail - Thanks!**

**E-mail:**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

Individual \$20.00  Additional Member Same Household \$10.00

Senior (55 and over) \$14.00  Additional Member Same Household \$10.00

Business \$26.00

*(Membership fees are the same for all or part of the year.)* \_\_\_\_\_

Su's area

Date paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. and amount \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Amount \_\_\_\_\_

# Time to RENEW Memberships are due!

**Have a GREAT 2008!!**

*Peninsula Orchid Society  
The Sheath  
Chaunie Langland, Editor  
878 Cashew Way  
Fremont, CA 94536*

ATTENTION: 2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW!