

The Sheath

June General Meeting

Date: June 27, 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

Fantasy Orchid Travels Through China

Paul Chim has been growing orchids for over 40 years. His specialty is cool growing Cymbidiums; both species and hybrids. He is an accredited Cymbidium Society of America (CSA) judge and has served as head judge in the Pacific Central Judging area. Paul is also a former President and Vice President of the Orchid Society of California. He is a founding member of the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society.

He and his wife, Phyllis, are the owners of May-On Orchids, located in San Leandro. They can be found at many Bay Area orchid shows. Paul has been, and still is, very generous with his support of the Bay Area orchid scene.

Skill Session at 7:00PM

Paul Chim

**Growing better
Cymbidiums**

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

Speaker: Paul Chim

**Fantasy Orchid
Travels Through China**

Opportunity table by
May-On Orchids

Paul's lecture will focus on his Orchid expeditions to his native homeland, China. He has returned too many times to count, and has led a number of orchid groups into China and other areas of the South Asian region.

June Skill Session - “Growing Better Cymbidiums, Both Species and Hybrids”

Paul Chim will also provide a very interesting talk on “Cymbidium Secrets”, there will surely be information here that will perk your interest in Cymbidiums. Here is your chance to present any nagging cymbidium questions to a seasoned “expert.”

Raffle Table:

The raffle table will also be provided by Paul Chim and is sure to please.

President's Corner

The next few months will hopefully bring some very nice weather, but hot dry periods can be challenging for those of us who grow our orchids outside. If you have not done so already, it is a good time to get that extra shade cloth and install a misting system. These relatively simple steps are inexpensive ways to protect your orchids from heat stress. This month's meeting will feature Paul Chim, an expert on cymbidiums and how to grow them. His skill session on how to grow super-cymbidiums should offer some great tips for both the novice and experienced grower. See you there!

Mary Gerritsen



Member News

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Rene Biggs (Whoo Hoo!), Elaine Jek, Patrick Hoe, Paul Simon, Jill Rodder, Margaret Ziegler, Ron Parsons, Karen Hagstrom, Sung Han Lee, Evelyn Martin, Douglass Brown, Olga Ostrovsky, and Ann Havey Cavender.

Get Well Soon!

Angelic Nguyen was a passenger in a car involved in a bad traffic accident last month. Her recovery is expected to take several months. We hope you are feeling much better by the time this reaches you Angelic!

We wish **Ron Parsons** a rapid recovery from his major surgery and an happy celebration of his 50th birthday.

Please contact the newsletter editor or the membership chairman if you need anyone's address to send them a get well and/or birthday card.

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. Please see either Olga Ostrovsky or Rebecca Grubbs for your "thank you" strip of opportunity tickets!

Upcoming Events

July 11 – 13, 28th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair - Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara. (Highway 101 at Las Positas Road). For more information, visit the website: <http://orchidfair.com/>, email to sboe@sborchid.com or call 1-800-553-3387.

August 16 - POS Greenhouse Bus Tour! Set aside this Saturday in August for a fun day of looking at and buying orchids and orchid supplies. There were many great bargains last year, the bus was extremely comfortable and a fabulous time was had by all. This year we will be heading out to Bay Area greenhouses - more details in the next Sheath.

Last year's tour



Sow Bugs Are Not Little Armadillos

In Gerardus' talk at the April meeting, on pests and diseases, he mentioned sow bugs, but didn't give details about them. I always knew them as them potato bugs. Since I have one pot full of them in my greenhouse, and find them every time I lift up anything outdoors, I was curious what they live on and looked them up on the internet. Here is a reprint, with permission from the author, of material from a web site posted by Lenny Tatara.

Sow bugs are not little armadillos. Sow bugs are isopods not insects. What is an isopod you may ask? An isopod is a crustacean. Shrimp and crayfish are crustaceans also. Do sow bugs taste like shrimp? I don't know. I have never eaten shrimp.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE? They live in dark moist places. Sow bugs can be found under rocks, boards, any damp place will do. They can be found in your basement. Not mine. They need the dampness because they breath with gills.

WHAT DO THEY EAT? They feed on dead and decaying plants, turning organic material into compost. They are part of natures recycling process. In a greenhouse environment they will feed on young plants.

SOW BUGS have three body parts. Their body consists of a head, a thorax and an abdomen. - seven pair of legs - One prominent pair of antennae (one inconspicuous pair) - Simple eyes - Seven separate segments on thorax - Paired appendages at end of abdomen called uropods.

To the left you will see photos that I took of my favorite SOW BUG. Feel free to take and use these pictures. Thanks for looking. Lenny (Mr. SOW BUG) Tatara.

To see all of Lenny's photos go to <http://www.geocities.com/photocatcher/sowbugs.html>



GREENHOUSE PROJECT #1



GREENHOUSE PROJECT #2



Editor's Corner

There just was not a way to squeeze my comments in last month, so this month I intend to make up for that and go on and on and

We are blessed at POS with many members who are exceptional orchid growers. Their plants are beautiful and extremely floriferous or are very unusual or difficult to grow. Some of them earn AOS awards. However, when it comes to the Show and Tell table, you should not feel shy about bringing in your "normal" orchids. Whether you have an "ordinary" phalaenopsis, a laelia with three or four blooms, or an "easy to grow" epidendrum, bring it on in! (Free of disease and pests, of course.) Every bloom is a thing of wonder and beauty. Do not agonize over whether or not your plant is "good enough" to bring in. Share the plants that bring you joy with the rest of us orchid fanatics!

I **personally** feel that it is too bad that we have started clapping for orchids on the Show and Tell table. While there are certainly exceptional orchids up there, I feel that clapping for some plants introduces an element of competition. I don't want to start clapping for every plant on the table either! I am just not that strong, even if my appreciation of the plants is. So, if you notice I am not clapping for your plant, please do not take it as a judgement on your plant.

Our April speaker was Gerardus Staal, talking about pests and diseases. I was in for quite a shock. I never had to worry about catching or giving viruses between my horse and my dog and myself. It had never occurred to me that diseases could infect the greenhouse orchids by starting other types of plants in there in the spring. Well, one more thing to be careful about.

Finally, I got around to ordering a 25 plant virus kit from Agdia (1-800-622-4342), inspired by Amy and Ken's excellent demonstration at the April skill session. The total cost, including DHL shipping, was \$128.64. I ran my first 6 tests this week. One orchid that I was SURE had Odontoglossum Ringspot virus tested clean - twice. Another that I was also sure had Odontoglossum Ringspot virus tested positive for Cymbidium Mosaic Virus instead. Apparently it takes a while to develop Ken's eye for these things!

I attend most of the board meetings, even though I am not a board member, to gather information needed for the newsletter. I am very impressed with the effort the board members put into trying to make the society more responsive to the needs and wants of its members. Many ideas are hashed out over several months, both at the board meetings and in the POS board yahoo group, before being presented to the membership. The 501 (c)(3) required a tremendous amount of work and took 4 months of effort - which is still ongoing in the legal area (Todd Kennedy). Discussion took place for 3 months before the new opportunity table format was suggested at the last meeting - where it was discovered by vote that most people prefer the current method. Efforts to organize the bus tour have been going on since January. Discussion takes place regarding our annual show at almost every meeting. We are fortunate to have a very capable, interested, and dedicated board - busy people who make time to keep our group active. I hope you will consider supporting them by offering your input about speakers and skill sessions, as well as considering joining the board in the future.

Some photos of orchids from the May Show and Tell table are included this month. They were selected on the criteria of which of my shots turned out to be in focus. I would love to have YOUR photos for The Sheath. Please e-mail them to me or give them to me on CD.

Hope to see you all at this month's meeting.

Chaunie

Car Pool Corner

Have more fun! Talk about your orchids all the way to the meeting! Carpool with other members. You can advertise for a ride or offer a ride to and/or from the meeting. It's up to you whether you want to share gas costs, trade driving, whatever. Send your car pool ad to the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net by the 5th of the month.

Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is free. E-mail your ad to the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net or mail to 878 Cashew Way, Fremont, CA 94536. Be sure to include your name and phone number. Ads must be received by the 5th of the month to be included that month's newsletter, and will run for 3 months unless withdrawal is requested.



July Board Meeting

The July Board meeting will be held on Wednesday the 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. 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.



2008 Board of Directors/Chairpersons

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Vice President: Mike Rector 650-366-3401

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*Have a fun and safe
4th of July!*

Peninsula Orchid Society

The Sheath

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