

The Sheath

March General Meeting

Date: March 27, 2009

Time: **7:30** 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

**No Skill Session - doors
open at 7:00 PM**

7:30 PM Special AOS
judging/seminar

Enter plants for judging
by 7:15PM

Followed by
presentation of the
Show & Tell table and
finishing with the
Opportunity table by
Anna Chai

AOS Judging at POS

I'm sure we've all had the experience of going to an orchid show and seeing blue ribbons on the showiest plants, and then seeing a plant right next to the showy plant with no ribbon at all, but an AOS award. Well, we'll have the chance to learn about different types of judging and understand how this occurs.

Of course, orchid judges for the AOS look for something different when judging flowers than do the ribbon judges for a society show, and this month we'll be able to see AOS judging in action. There will be two or three AOS judging teams set up to judge and score plants, and the local AOS judging chairman, Maynard Michel, will explain the overall process. As judging starts, members will gather around the individual judging groups to see the process in detail.

Because AOS judging is supposed to be an anonymous process, there are a couple things we'll need to do for this meeting that are different than usual. First, please bring in plants for the show-and-tell table as usual, especially if you think the flowers are exceptional for that particular type of orchid, but please don't stop to tell any of the judges about your

plant as you do this. If a judge knows that a particular plant belongs to a specific person, they must excuse themselves from judging that plant.

The meeting will commence at 7:30 this month, and after announcements, we'll start the judging process immediately. Any plants where judging has been specifically requested will be judged – forms will be at the meeting for requesting judging. Also, the show-and-tell table will be viewed by the judges to see if there are additional plants they feel worthy of a closer look. Once judging is finished, we'll have a short break, introduce the awarded plants and the show-and-tell table, and then proceed with the raffle.

If the judges award your plant, then that's wonderful. If you don't get an award, that doesn't mean your plant isn't exceptional, only that the judges are looking at attributes of a plant and flower which may be different than you see when you look at the flower. Especially with orchids, beauty is very much in the eye of the beholder.

I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to get plants AOS judged without having to go to San Francisco or Oakland. Hopefully, we'll all learn more about AOS judging, see some special plants, and have fun in the process! See you there, Ken Jacobsen

Editor's corner

The repotting season is upon us once again - not that it actually comes to a complete halt. The worst aspect of my orchid culture is repotting. Not that I don't know how, just that I don't make the time for it. Since I don't do it often, I don't keep potting mix or sphagnum moss moistened - or it tends to have partially rotted by the time I get to it. So, when I have time to repot, I find that I don't have any moistened potting mix, so it will have to be next weekend . . .

While I was looking for a job - oops, in transition is considered the correct term these days - I did set a goal of repotting everything that needed it. And almost succeeded. Two of the phrags I repotted are pictured to the right. (Yes, different gloves for handling each plant.) They had both been repotted at the same time previously. The one in the top photo took over an hour to untangle the roots and remove the potting mix - the roots had interwoven. The one on the bottom took less than 5 minutes from taking it out of the pot to putting it back in with new mix. This is a lesson to me in paying attention to how well the orchids are growing and repotting on an "as needed" basis. Some experts recommend repotting phrags every 6 months. Probably not a bad idea - wish I would do it. It's a lot more fun - and less time consuming - to repot at the right time.

In place of the April meeting we will have a potting clinic at Sue Rose's house on April 25th. (This is due to lack of availability of the Garden Center on our usual meeting date.) So plan to come over to Sue's house in Palo Alto and discover different types of potting media, when the best time is to repot your particular types of orchids, and bring a difficult plant along to see if you can trick someone else into doing the hard parts.

Membership: I will be available to take membership renewals from 7:15 to 7:30 and again at the break at the March meeting. Otherwise, please mail your renewal before the end of March. Thanks!!

Chaunie



Pacific Orchid Exposition



A beautiful weekend to drive to S.F.



Anna Chai's *Pterostylis curta* 'Kuen Hee' won a 91 Pt. CCE and a 76 pt. HCC from the AOS along with numerous ribbons



Cynthia Hill's *Gastroorchis tuberculosa* aka *Phaius tuberculosa* (you decide!)



Cym. Anette Funachello

Lc. Dennis Olivas 'Highland Rainbow' - D&D Flowers



Walter Shinn's Masd. MacInnes' Golden Heart



Japheth Ko's Paph. Ripple was another big winner



Boomers Orchid Ark displayed this lovely Angraecum sesquipedale

Diablo View O.S. had an incredible display



White Oak Orchids exhibited Lycaste Salisbury



Lc. Dennis Olivias 'Highland Splash' D&D Flowers



The vendor sales area was as wonderful as one could hope

Cynthia Hill's Dend. sanderae v. major 'Vistamont'



AOS - AM 82 pts. CCE 90



Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: **Carol Zoltowski, Anna Margarita Quiroz, Marjery Mayer, George Plafker, Ritsuko Furuya, Carl Sutherland, Mort Block, Rose Marie Pfanenstiel, Nancy Francis, Vicki Marchinko, Diana Gross, Paul Reeve, Ginger Creavy, Su McMurtry, & Evelyn Jones.**

A Special Welcome to our New Members: **Ronald Gonzalez, Carmel Orchid Society, Mangala Kishen, Gregory Mayfield, and Dr. Hui-Mei Chen.**

Condolences go out to Chaunie Langland, who's brother-in-law passed away in February.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Lee. She included a generous donation to POS with her membership renewal. Also to Chaunie Langland who included a donation with her membership.



Restrepia guttatum
Mary Gerritsen



Max. schunkeana
Hanging Gardens



Dendrochilum wenzelii
Linda Locatelli



Dend. amethystoglossum
Linda Locatelli



Blc. Hawaiian Lightening
Mangala Kishen
(Mangala has owned this plant 18 yrs.)



Dend. bracteosum
Janusz Warszawski



Smbv (now Lrn.) Dipsy Doodle
(not on ID card)



Paph. malipoense
Anna Chai



L. pretens x C. walkeriana
Anne Riegel



Ascda. Mikasa Blue
Janusz Warszawski



Milt. Bert Field Rison 'Glory'
Gloria Bygdnes



Aerangis rhodosticta
Anna Chai



Cym. erythraeum 'Paradise' B/CSA
CCM/AOS Gloria Bygdnes



V. Lumpini Red
Nick Hughes



Centroglossa macroceras
Anna Chai



Slc. Hsin Buu Lady 'Y.T. Beauty'
Dockrilla linguiforme

Onc. Twinkle Chaunie Langland

Sorry gang -
due to
membership
duties I only
got the early
ones and not
all of those!



Upcoming Events

March 14-15 - Golden Gate Cymbidium Society - Lakeside Garden Center (Lake Merritt), 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland - 9 AM to 5 PM both days - Free admission - call (510) 276-2851 or go to www.ggcymbidiums.com for more information.

March 20-22 - Santa Barbara International Orchid Show - Earl Warren Showgrounds - Hwy. 101 & Las Positas Rd. 9 AM - 5 PM. For more information call (805) 969-5746 or www.sborchidshow.org

Agdia will be at the Santa Barbara show to demonstrate their virus test kits.

March 28-29 - Napa Valley Show & Sale - Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa - 9AM - 4 PM each day - admission is FREE.

April 18 - Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show and Sale - San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Dr., San Mateo (yes, same place we have our meetings!) 10AM - 4PM - Free Admission. For more information call 408-741-2882 or go to www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com

April 18-19 - Sacramento Orchid Society Show and Sale - Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento - Sat. 10AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10AM - 4 PM - Admission \$5. For more information (916) 489-3263 or www.sacramentoorchids.org

April 25 - Peninsula Orchid Society April meeting and plant sale - 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM - will take place at Sue Rose's house in the form of our annual potting clinic. See the April *Sheath* for details. There will be no general meeting on the 4th Friday of April.

May 17 - Carmel Orchid Society Annual MayFaire Show & Sale - more info in April *Sheath*.

May 30-31 - Express Orchid Exhibition - Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 1350 N. Fourth St., San Jose - 9AM - 5 PM

The Sacramento Orchid Society Presents the 62nd Annual

2009 Orchid Show & Plant Sale

Saturday April 18, 10am - 5pm
Sunday April 19, 10am - 4pm



Welcome to the Jungle

• Exhibits • Classes • Vendors •

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819
(near CSU Sacramento)

\$5.00 Admission
Children Free with an Adult
Free Parking

For details call 916 489-3263 or visit
www.sacorchidshow.com or www.sacramentoorchids.org

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers

2009 Cymbidium Orchid Show & Sale

Saturday, April 18, 2009 10 AM - 4 PM



Northern California's
Largest & most Beautiful
Display of Cymbidium
Orchids Available in One
Location!

Hard to find cymbidium
and other orchid plants
available for purchase
for One Day Only!

Free Admission and
Parking

San Mateo
Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA 94403

(From Hwy 92, turn South at
the 'Alameda de Las Pulgas'
exit.

Website www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com
Questions? Email GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers@Yahoo.com, or call (408) 741-2882

PRODUCT REVIEW - BUBBLE WRAP INSULATION FROM CHARLIE'S GREENHOUSE

This is not a Consumer's Report type review - there has been no careful scientific test protocol executed. This is just my experience with the Charlie's Greenhouse bubble wrap insulation that I put up last fall and over the winter - completely unaided by anyone who has a talent for this type of thing.

I heat my 6x8 ft. wood and double wall polycarbonate greenhouse to 55 degrees with two electric space heaters. One, a 400 watt panel type convection heater bought online and the other a more powerful dual power mode space heater from Ace Hardware. Last year was the first winter there were orchids in the greenhouse. I caulked and hoped for the best. Near the end of winter I realized, as I watched mist from the fogger escaping into cold air, that I had missed the all important area between the walls and the roof on the sides. This year I did caulk those areas and close one foot long gap in that area that required a piece of round door insulation to be stuffed into it before I could caulk. I mention this because some or all of the energy savings I realized could be attributed to remedying this issue.



If you look at the illustration in the Charlie's catalog, you will see the 2 ft. wide insulation fitting neatly over the greenhouse siding into the space between the wooden frames. My greenhouse panels are 2 ft wide, but that includes the wooden framing. I started by cutting out cute little pieces to fit between the wooden framing and adhering it with the double sided tape I had also bought from Charlie's. There were three issues with this method. 1) It takes WAY too much time. 2) The bubble wrap is placed with the bubble side towards the wall and the tape, so the tape strips were not able to hold the bubble wrap on the ceiling panels very well. 3) Even with caulking there are air leaks between the wooden frame pieces - it is good to cover these with the bubble wrap!



What I ended up doing, also suggested as a method in the instructions with the bubble wrap, was to use a desk stapler to staple the pieces in place. I did this with the pieces cut to fit the polycarbonate areas first, then realized I could just run long strips around the walls and down from the roof panels and staple as I went across the wooden frame. This was so much easier, faster, and more effective in keeping the insulation up.

My electricity usage was measurably down from last year. Our house has a gas furnace and gas water heater, so the greenhouse makes up a large part of our winter bill. Also, the first winter the 400 watt panel heater could only heat the greenhouse to 5 degrees above the outside temperature. This year it was able to heat the greenhouse 10 to 12 degrees above the outside temperature.

I plan to take down the insulation next month for the summer and reinstall it in the fall when I clean my greenhouse. It turned out to be worth the effort.

Thanks everyone for taking the time to fill out the membership forms completely. I have been comparing your forms with your information in my address book and correcting errors. (I have already figured out that there will still be errors.) The directory will be published in May and available at the May and June meetings. If you do not want to be listed in the directory please let me know. It is only given to other Peninsula Society members. Chaunie - (510) 494-8850.

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 1st of the month to be included that month's newsletter.

For Sale: AOS Bulletins 1967-2009 \$150.00 or best offer. Al Testa, 408-243-7788 (Santa Clara)

Great Volunteer Opportunity - In March Mort Block is presenting a "Beginner's Evening About Orchids" to the residents of Pilgrim Haven Retirement community and Health Center in Los Altos. Isabelle had a stroke about three years ago and is in the health center. Gerardus Stall and Ginette Sanchou will be helping at the Wednesday evening "Fellowship Hall". More volunteers are needed for the evening. If you would like to share your love of orchids with people who will truly appreciate seeing you, call Mort Block at (650) 493-0280.

March Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, March 27, at Fresh Choice Restaurant, 1952 S El Camino Real in San Mateo (close to Hwy. 92). (650) 341-8498. The meeting will begin at 5:00PM.

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.

2009 Board of Directors

President: Ken Jacobsen 650-631-4235

Vice President: Mike Rector 650-366-3401

Treasurer: Trudy Hadler 650-483-1277

Rec. Secretary: Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037

Corr. Secretary: Judy Evans 650-593-8625

Ways & Means CP: Paul Reeve 650-366-3251

Membership CP: Chaunie Langland

Director at Large: Carol Zoltowski 415-657-3222

Director at Large: Brett Francis 650-369-2329

Director at Large: Mary Gerritsen 650-348-6492

Director at Large: Randall Takemoto-Hambleton 408-777-8964

Chairpersons

AOS Rep: Mary Gerritsen 650-348-6492

Librarian: Rex Castell 650-576-4637

Refreshment Chairpersons: Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037 & Olga Ostrovsky 650-631-0218

Sheath Editor: Chaunie Langland 510-494-8850 the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net

Sheath Snail Mail Co-ordinator: Susan Tong

Accountant: Sue Rose 650-322-9853

Web Editor: Fred Cox 650-321-3542

Society Mailing Address: P.O.Box 6894

Website address: <http://penorchidsoc.org>

San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

2009 Peninsula Orchid Society
Membership Application or Renewal

Mail to: Chaunie Langland

878 Cashew Way Fremont, CA 94536

If you have not renewed your membership yet, you still have until the end of March to be current and to be listed in our directory coming out for 2009-2010.

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 to save postage and printing for *The Sheath*. Also, you will receive last minute information about orchid related events if we have your e-mail address. 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.)

Chaunie's area

Date paid _____ Check No. and amount _____

Receipt No. _____ Cash Amount _____

For membership year February 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010

*Time to renew your membership for
2009 if you have not already!*

*Due to the SM Garden Center's
decision to schedule another group
into our slot in April, we will not be
having our regular meeting in
April. (Details inside)*

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