

The Sheath

May General Meeting

Date: May 22, 2009

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 at 7:00PM

Alan Koch

Orchids 101

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

Speaker: **Alan Koch**

**Miniature Orchids for
the Cattleya Grower**

Opportunity table by
Gold Country Orchids

Miniature Orchids for the Cattleya Grower

Speaker: Alan Koch

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. His talk will cover 50 miniature orchids that do well for growers who let their plants dry between waterings and who don't necessarily fertilize their plants often.

Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California.

He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids.

He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker.

He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

Alan will give the skill session on Orchids 101 and will also provide the Opportunity Table plants.

President's Corner

One of the great things about opportunity tables is that you never really know what orchid you'll end up selecting from those that remain. Of course, we all have looked at the table in advance, and we have mentally selected those we would like most, but in the end you could end up with almost anything.

Choosing a plant from a genus new to you from the opportunity table is an excellent way to learn about something new. When this happens to me, my first reaction is to do a little research and find out more about the plant and what the various orchid growing guides claim is the correct culture. I temper this information with a little research into the climate and conditions where that particular plant thrives in nature – sometimes the conditions from nature don't agree with what's written in the guides, and in those cases I lean toward what nature indicates. Often the conditions are similar to those for other plants already in our collection, but sometimes not.

Interestingly, by attempting to grow something new, and grow it well, the other plants in our collection also seem to benefit. Whether this is due to increased attention, a slight modification in growing conditions, or some other factor, I don't know, but it has happened again and again. I personally think it's the increased attention, because something new will draw one into the growing area much more often – there's nothing quite so exciting as seeing a new plant grow and bloom for the first time. This is exactly why some of the best growers in our society have very eclectic collections with a few plants each from many different genera. They've learned over time that diversity in a collection can be a major growing benefit, and can keep orchid interest at a high level.

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids is our speaker this month, and he'll be talking about smaller orchids that can be grown with mini-cattleyas and other smaller intermediate condition orchids. I'm sure he'll have an interesting and varied opportunity table, and there will probably be plants with which many of us are not familiar. I encourage each of you to take a chance and choose something different from the table this time. You'll be surprised at how much renewed interest something totally new and different can generate.

Cheers,
Ken

June 14th Greenhouse Bus Tour

This year's greenhouse bus tour will be heading east to the Sacramento region. First stop will be at Gold Country Orchids, then on to Howard Gunn's two greenhouses. Paul Reeve will have the specifics (cost, departure time, etc.) at the May meeting, along with a sign-up sheet. For more information, please contact Paul at (650) 366-3251.

April Potting Clinic

Our potting clinic, hosted by Sue Rose, was a great success. In past years our host has been an expert, such as Weegie Caughlan or Dennis Olivias, with a few other knowledgeable members on hand to help out. This year Sue organized a large group of experts to be on hand: Ken Jacobsen, Tom Mudge, Amy Chung, Anna Chai, Gerardus Staal, and Todd Kennedy. They all worked very hard. Members who brought orchids commented that not only did they learn how to repot the orchids they brought, they also learned a lot about how to grow and flower them from the expert who helped them. The food was excellent, some of it prepared by Rex Castell, and Sue's home, garden, and greenhouses are beautiful. Of special interest in her garden was a truly fabulous white peony. Photos are on the next page and were supplied by Olga Ostrovsky and her husband.



Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Lyn Haithcox, Charlotte Thunen, Christine Kradjian, Margaret Boomer, Anna Radcliffe, Patricia Coney, Sue Rose, Avery Rock, Misae Tanihana, Gloria Bygdnes, Rex Castell, Annie Green, Pat Kajikawa, Ken Jacobsen, Susan Tong, Marlene Beumer, and Judy Evans!

Awards results from AOS judging at our March POS meeting:

Awards photos taken by and reprinted by permission of Ken Jacobsen.



Cym. Tower of Fire
'Sunset Flame'
HCC 79
Weegie Caughlan



Masd. Highland Monarch
'Winston'
AM 81
Ken & Amy Jacobsen



Sppm. beluosum
'Vistamont'
CCM 87
Steve Beckendorf



Masd. Joy Edstrom
'Margaret's'
HCC 76
Margaret & Terry
Boomer



Odm. unreg. hybrid
'Vistamont'
HCC 76
Steve Beckendorf



Cym. unreg. hybrid
'Cinnabar'
HCC 76
Weegie Caughlan



Onc. cebolleta
'Memoria Jane Coney'
CCM 80
Zach Coney



Left to right: Don Wimber (Eric Young (longfolium x besseae) x besseae); besseae; and Belle Hogue Point (Eric Young x caudatum sanderae).

One thing I love about phrags is that it is hard to overwater most of them. I like to water! They are picky about their water though - to avoid crispy brown leaf ends, they need reverse osmosis, distilled, or rain water. I give mine reverse osmosis water.

Another thing I appreciate is that they often bloom sequentially for months, with the flowers dropping off while still appearing perfect, so they never look ratty.

The long petaled phrags are exciting to watch open. The bud becomes several inches long. With backlighting you can see the pouch inside and the long petals along each edge. Then the sides split open, while the tip holds together, and the long petals start to loop out of the sides, until finally the tip breaks apart and the flower opens.

I give mine more light than many resources recommend. They get moved around to the sunny area on the greenhouse benches throughout the year. They seem to like it. (Except seedlings - those seem to prefer the bottom shelf.) Of course, they bloom fine in the house, which is where they head once the first bud opens, but the time in the greenhouse seems to make the stems and leaves much stronger.

Most written cultural articles recommend repotting them every six months. I often let them go two years. This is not a recommendation!

Some of my collection has come from local growers and society members - Dennis Olivas, White Oak Orchids, Mary Gerritsen, Napa Valley Orchids, Mike Drilling, and Orchids of Los Osos (besseae in photo above). Many of them have arrived by mail order - Piping Rock Orchids, Ken's Orchids (can't find him any more), Woodstream Orchids, ORCHIDbabies, and Carter & Holmes.



Phrag. Cardinale (sedenii x schlimii)

I ♥ Phrags

While Phragmipediums bloom throughout the year, this is the time of year when the greatest number are in bud and bloom together at my house.

As I look across my family room at the phrags on the plant stand I realize that the show-stopper, the orchid my eyes go to first, is the besseae. The hybrids may be larger in flower and in plant size, but none really match the brilliant color of the besseae.

There are many other phragmipedium species, each with its own charms, but besseae seems like the crown jewel to me. Of course, if I could make a hybrid with the petal length of warscewiczianum (around 2 - 3 ft.) and the colors of besseae I would be pretty darn happy.



Phrag Cape Sunset (Eric Young x schlimii)

What is one of your favorite orchids? Write an article about it and send it to the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net. Worried about grammar and spelling errors? Don't worry, be happy, I will edit yours out and replace them with my own. Chaunie

Upcoming Events

May 17 - Carmel Orchid Society Annual MayFaire Show & Sale - 9 AM – 5 PM , at Hidden Valley Music Seminars, 88 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village, 11 miles East of Highway 1, ADMISSION IS FREE, Lots of Free Parking. For more information go to www.carmelorchidsociety.org or www.cvgardenclub.org, or www.hiddenvalleymusic.org, or contact Carolyn Salmon, COS Chairperson at 375-3748 or cargie@yahoo.com

May 22 - POS meeting

May 30-31 - San Jose Orchid Exhibition- Formerly known as the Holiday Inn Express Orchid Exhibition - Miraido Club House, 550 6th St., San Jose - 9AM - 5PM.

June 13 - Orchid Society of Southern California Annual Auction - First Christian Church meeting hall, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank. www.orchidssc.org/osscc_auction.aspx Admission is free.

June 14 - POS Greenhouse Bus Tour to Sacramento contact Paul Reeve at (650) 366-3251 for more information.

July 10-12 - Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair - Earl Warren Showground. Free admission, \$5 parking. www.orchidfair.com

July 10 - Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society Special Speaker - Come hear Orchid Fair guest author Lou Menezes at 7:30 pm in Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De La Vina (at De La Vina and Victoria)



SAN JOSE ORCHID EXHIBITION
WINE TASTING • BEGINNER ORCHID GROWING SKILL SESSIONS

**COMING TO
SAN JOSE
JAPANTOWN**

**Saturday & Sunday
May 30 & 31, 2009**

Miraido Club House
550 6th St., San Jose, CA 95112

9:00AM-5:00PM

ORCHID SALES
Presented by the
**Santa Clara Valley
Orchid Society**
www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org

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www.orchidphotos.org

Sunday May 17th, 9am to 5pm

**Carmel Valley
Flower & Art Show**

**Carmel Orchid
Society MayFaire**

*Carmel Valley Garden Association & Carmel Orchid Society
present an extraordinary double event including:*

Judged Flower Exhibits Art & Pottery Vendors
Daniel Barduzzi's BBQ Huge Plant & Orchid Sale
Silent Auction & Raffle Garden Lecture Series Potting Demos
Artists' Field of Flowers Paintings for Silent Auction
Children's Discovery Garden Stepping Stone Workshop

Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts
88 W. Carmel Valley Road at Ford Road in Carmel Valley
831-659-3615

FREE ADMISSION

Details available at: www.cvgardenclub.org • carmelorchidsociety.org • hiddenvalleymusic.org

Virtual Show & Tell Table



Dend. jenkinsii and BC Busybee "Crothers" photos by Chaunie Langland



Cym. Jill 'Katanica' photo by Judy and Clint Evans



Cym. unknown photo by Judy and Clint Evans



Bletilla striata 'Murasaki Shikibu' and Zygostates alleniana photos by Linda Locatelli



Masd. mystica and Epactis gigantea photos by Mary Gerritsen



Stan. tigrena 'Predator' and Miltoniopsis spectabilis var. moreliana 'Royalty' photos by Paul Reeve



BLC Durigan 'Aquarius', L. purpurata var. semialba 'Genesis', and BLC. Durigan 'Scorpius' photos by Ken Jacobsen, taken in Brazil

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)

May Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, March 22, 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.

Free Opportunity Table Tickets: You will receive 2 strips of tickets for bringing refreshments to the meetings. You will also receive 2 strips of opportunity table tickets if you change from snail mail to e-mail for the newsletter.

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

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Membership CP: Chaunie Langland

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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

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San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

*Remember - our meeting is held the
4th Friday - not the last Friday*

*See you on the next to last Friday -
the beginning of Memorial Day
weekend !*

*Peninsula Orchid Society
The Sheath
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Fremont, CA 94536*