

# The Sheath

## June General Meeting

Date: June 26, 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

**Steve Beckendorf**

**Orchid Conservation Alliance**

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

Speaker: **Steve  
Beckendorf**

**Odontoglossums**

Opportunity table by

**Steve Beckendorf**

### **Odontoglossums**

by speaker Steve Beckendorf

I started growing orchids about 25 years ago and quickly became fascinated by Odontoglossums and their close relatives because of their beauty and variety, because excellent plants were available from growers and hybridizers on the West Coast, and because of their glamorous past as the most sought after plants in the orchid frenzy that gripped Europe in the 19th century.

I soon realized that few of the species in this group were readily available and began collecting them for propagation and use in hybridizing. My attempt to find unusual or lost species has led to several trips to the cloud forests of Mexico and South America.

I currently grow about 50 Odontoglossum species and another 30-40 of their near relatives along with lots of Odont hybrids and a smattering of other cool growing genera.

Because of my background in genetics and developmental biology, I'm interested in many areas of orchid research, am actively involved in DNA-based revisions of orchid taxonomy, currently serve as a board member of the Odontoglossum Alliance and the Orchid Conservation Alliance and am a member of the Conservation Committee of the American Orchid Society.

My talk for Peninsula will highlight some of the unusual species in Odontoglossum along with efforts to save them and distribute them to orchid growers. I'll also talk about some recent directions in hybridizing, especially with Odontoglossum cirrhosum. Finally, I'll briefly discuss the recent taxonomic results that threaten to sink all the Odontoglossums into the genus Oncidium.

**Skill session** by Steve also: he will discuss the Orchid Conservation Alliance, what his role is and what our role is.

## President's Corner

Most of us are taking a sigh of relief because the spring orchid blooming season is over, and we're looking forward to relaxing a little and catching up on all those little chores that never seem to get done. In truth, we're probably also starting to miss having all the blooms gracing our homes and greenhouses, even if we won't admit it.

While it's true that many of the orchid classics are spring bloomers, there are many which don't bloom in the spring. Right now in many greenhouses and backyards, Masdevallias are putting on a tremendous show with their tall bright-colored flowers held well above their foliage, waving like flags in the breezes. Other pleurothallids are also coming into bloom, and it may be that many of them are small, but their flowers are no less interesting.

Of course, those of us who grow *Laelia purpurata* always look forward to June and July when these magnificent flowers come into full bloom. Although the flowers only last a couple weeks, different varieties of *purpurata* bloom at slightly different times, so there's usually a span of over two months when these flowers brighten our days. Many of the rock-growing (rupicolous) *laelias* also bloom in the summer.

All of these and a few other summer bloomers are also quite tolerant of outside conditions, so with a little protection, there's no reason to suffer the summer orchid doldrums. You just need to get a little variety, and these summer bloomers can please you all summer long. The only sad thing is that there are no local summer shows where we can go to see these beautiful summer bloomers in numbers, so make sure to bring your summer blooming orchids to the show and tell tables at our society and others, so we can all enjoy them.

Cheers,

Ken

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## Greenhouse Bus Tour Postponed to October or November

We will still be going to Howard Gunn's and to Gold Country Orchids in the Sacramento area. Please let Paul Reeve know what would be a good date for YOU. He has plenty of open dates to choose from.

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## Advertisements

I am considering opening the newsletter to orchid and garden related advertising. How do you, the readers, feel about having ads in the newsletter? Maybe you prefer it without any ads? Maybe you would like to have vendor information available at your fingertips? Maybe I won't find any interest from advertisers. But, first, I need to know how YOU feel about this. If I don't hear from you, I will take that to mean that you are for it or are neutral. If I hear from you - I will know one way or the other for sure! Please contact me at [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net) or call me at 510-494-8850. Chaunie.

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## Member News



*A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Kyle Filippuzzi, Rene Biggs, Elaine Jek, Patrick Hoe, Paul Simon, Mike Drilling, Ron Parsons, Sung Han Lee, Olga Ostrovsky, Margaret Ziegler, and Ann Havey Cavender.*

*Welcome to our New Members: Martha Skalak and Rich Copeland, and Steve Proshan!*

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### **Sharon Langan joins our board**

Brett Francis resigned his Director at Large position due to work commitments. We would like to welcome Sharon Langan to the board and thank Brett for his service on the board. (Are you interested in serving on next year's board? Just let Mike Rector know - it's never too early to express your interest.)

### **Orchids 101**

I have read that you should check each orchid each day for pest problems - catch them early and they are easier to treat. As I was checking the orchids in the greenhouse one day in May, I found a mealy bug - took aggressive action, then noticed an unusual pest in my laelia. This one took a little work to dislodge - especially to get it out of the greenhouse without any embarrassing screaming occurring for the neighbors to overhear.





Lyc. Terry Kennedy  
Amy and Ken Jacobsen



Dennis and Olga seem to be pretty entertained by Gloria and Paul R's show and tell entries



Dryadella edwalli  
photo by Mary Gerritsen



Rose Marie checks out speaker Alan Koch's sale plants



Masd. Sunset Jaguar 'Sunset Giraffe'  
Mary Gerritsen



Dennis and Amy did a great job selling opportunity table tickets



New members Rich and Martha, with Kreg and speaker Alan Koch back by the door



Cymbidiella pardalina  
Kreg Martin



Members and guests had a good time visiting before the meeting began.



Lc. Amethyst Star Japheth Ko  
photo by Mary Gerritsen



Jackie pauses to see what that thing is that is pointing at her



Barkeria spectabilis  
Ginette Sanchou

## Native Orchids of California. The Three *Cypripedium*s

by **Mary E. Gerritsen**  
photos by **Ron Parsons**

The Genus *Cypripedium* is a genus of approximately 47 species; all are terrestrial hardy orchids, and are found in generally colder areas of North and Central America, Europe and Asia. The US has eleven species, and three of these can be found in California. Often called the Lady's slipper orchid by wildflower enthusiasts, the flowers of this genus are readily recognized by their distinctive pouch. The pouch is actually a modified lip, and plays a major role in pollination by temporarily trapping the visiting insect, and channeling its exit such that it must crawl out past the stigma and one of the anthers. During the exit, the insect contacts the pollen mass, which sticks to it, and then the insect carries it away, depositing it in the next flower visited.

Below is the Key to the California Species of *Cypripedium* taken from the book by Ron Coleman, *The Orchids of California*.

1. Leaves two, midway on plants; flowers clustered *C. fasciculatum*.
2. Leaves more than two, scattered along the stem; flowers on a raceme;
  - a. Sepals and petals about the same length as the lip, yellow to yellow-green; wet places. *C. californicum*.
  - b. Sepals and petals much longer than the lip, usually brown to tan; dry places or near the edge of wet places, but not in wet places. *C. montanum*.



*C. fasciculatum*



*C. californicum*



*C. montanum*

## Upcoming Events

**July 10-12 - Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair** - Earl Warren Showground. Free admission, \$5 parking. [www.orchidfair.com](http://www.orchidfair.com) Concurrently there will be an open house at SBOE. For a copy of all the information contact Chaunie and I will forward the e-mail from SBOE to you.

**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)

**August 8 - Speaker's Day** - 9AM to 5PM, Oddfellow's Building - 1831 Howe Ave at Alta Arden, Sacramento.

Featuring: **Roy Tokunaga** - H & R Nurseries - Understanding Dendrobiums, Their Variety & Culture

**Ron McHatton** - Director of Education for the American Orchid Society  
Simplified Orchid Genetics for the General Grower

**Carlos Fighetti** - President of the American Orchid Society  
Fantastic Modern Phalaenopsis from Taiwan

Break out sessions with culture talks on Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, miniature orchids, Paphiopediums and Cattleyas. Silent Auction divisions of awarded plants - even FCC's!

Vendors are Orchidview & H.P. Norton- Phalaenopsis breeding (blues!); H&R Nurseries, Hawaiian orchids of every variety; Gold Country Orchids minicatts that bloom 2-3 times a year & D&D Orchids - Dennis Olivas - Dennis will have whatever the others don't.

General admission - \$15.00

Sponsoring Societies (to CSNJC) or AOS members - \$5.00

**August 8 - Palomar Orchid Society Auction** - Carlsbad Women's Club - Preview at 11:00, bidding begins at noon. For more information contact Phyllis Prestia at [orchldy2@mac.com](mailto:orchldy2@mac.com) or 760-732-0055.

*Gang, in many cases I receive significantly more information on events than I put into the newsletter. If you are interested, I will put you on an e-mail mailing list and forward the e-mails as they come in. This is an all-or-nothing proposition - I won't filter events for you. However, there are only 1 to 4 e-mails that fall into this category in any month. E-mail me at [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net), if you desire to be on this mail list. Chaunie.*



Phrag, Paul Eugene Conroy - I didn't have time to pack this up and bring it for the show and tell table in May - please do send me photos of plants you can't bring in (blooms for 1 week - wrong week, etc.) also!

Angelic's Garden of Eden

I recently went to Angelic Nguyen's house to pick up a memorial arrangement. While there I had a chance to tour her "back yard", which is almost a block deep. What a treat! I didn't have my camera, so Angelic was kind enough to take the following photos and send them to me. Angelic has several large growing areas covered with shade cloth for her cymbidiums, and a wonderful greenhouse. She has so many plants that I decided to call it her Garden of Eden. There were orchids in bloom everywhere I looked.



Cym. Devon Fire

Cym. Vidar Harlequin



Cym. Jack Hudlow

Cym. Key Largo

Cym. Miss Muffet

Cym. Tanya Porter  
'Cinnabar'

Cym. Peewee 'Herman'



### Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is free. E-mail your ad to [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto: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)

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### June Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 26, 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.

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**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 510-483-1277

*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:* Sharon Langan 650-365-7160

*Director at Large:* Randall Takemoto-Hambleton 408-390-4324

### 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

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*Special thanks to Mary Gerritsen for  
her article on Cypripediums  
to Ron Parsons for his photos in  
Mary's article*

*Special thanks also to Angelic  
Nguyen for contributing photos of  
her collection for the newsletter!*

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