

The Sheath

July General Meeting

Date: June 24, 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

Sue Fordyce

Hot weather orchid care

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

**Speakers: Sue and Frank
Fordyce**

**Cattleyas and Mini-
cattleyas**

**Opportunity table by
Exotic Orchids of Maui**

Mini-Cattleyas and Cattleyas

Speakers Sue and Frank Fordyce

Frank Fordyce, twice president of the Orchid Society of California, is a world renown pioneer hybridizer of Miniature Cattleya. He made such famous hybrids as SLC Madge Fordyce, SLC Sue Fordyce, SLC Hazel Boyd, SLC Dixie Jewels and many standard size famous Cattleya hybrids as well.

His customers range from the beginning hobbyist to the very discriminating collectors and professional growers. Frank Fordyce has written many articles in orchid society journals and magazines and has given lectures at five world orchid conferences and many orchid societies throughout the world. Presently, he possibly has more seed pods and new hybrids in process than any other grower in the United States in the Cattleyas Alliance.

Sue Fordyce began her career in orchids literally at her father's knee (pulling weeds under the benches). Frank Fordyce has a career in orchids spanning over 60 years and is known worldwide for his award winning hybrids and informative lectures on Cattleyas. He has passed on this knowledge and easy style of communication to Sue. After a few years as a Psychiatric Nurse (which really prepared her for the orchid world) she went on to become manager of Fordyce Orchids, a post she has held for the past 18 years. Sue also has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada speaking on Orchid Culture and Cattleya Breeding. Sue is a past President of Diablo Valley Orchid Society and has been published in many orchid publications and is known for her humorous orchid poetry.

Skill Session

Sue Fordyce will present our skill session. She will share some of her methods for helping plants through hot weather - a very timely topic.

President's Corner

I'm sure some of you have heard me say that I believe there are two types of orchid enthusiasts. There are those who are primarily collectors – these are the people who want specific plants because the plants are rare, the plants just got big awards, the plants were blooming beautifully at a commercial or hobbyist greenhouse, or perhaps because they like species and they're trying to collect all the various species and forms of species of some genera. Sadly, these people often spend a little less time with their plants than they should, and spend more time hunting down that one special plant than that plant deserves.

The other type of orchid enthusiast is the grower. These people take joy from growing plants well, and aren't too concerned whether the plant happens to be a special specific cultivar of some rare species. These are also the people who try growing new orchids because they want to see how well they can grow something they haven't grown before. Often it takes a couple attempts to be truly successful, but there is a tremendous sense of accomplishment in growing one additional genus and species as well as the other plants in a collection. Sometimes, the grower is less apt to try something than they should be, even when everyone would agree they're fantastic growers in their particular genera.

Interestingly, if you look carefully at who gets most of the special society trophies and the AOS and CSA awards, it's the growers. A well grown plant of an average cultivar can completely outshine a poorly grown plant of a great cultivar, and when a great cultivar is tackled by those who take joy in growing plants well, the results can be spectacular. One need just look at our own monthly show-and-tell table to see what good orchid growers can accomplish.

Of course, each of us has some component of the collector, and some component of the grower. I would definitely encourage each of us to spend a little more time as a grower, to see if just a little more can be achieved with each of our plants. And when we're satisfied that we're doing about the best we're able to do, then it's time to be a little bit of a collector and try something totally new. And as always, a great way to try something new is by purchasing tickets for the opportunity table. You can never really be sure what you'll end up taking home!

Cheers,

Ken

Did you know that the POS is now non-profit charitable organization under 501c3?

All members donating cash will be given a receipt for the amount donated for their taxes effective February 1, 2009.

All members donating plants will be given a receipt for the member to fill in the value of the plant donated, effective February 1, 2009.

Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: *Rebecca Grubbs, Jackie Becker, Jason Heirtzler, Anna Chai, Fe Araullo, Deadra StClair, Janet McClurg, Paul Chim, Raymond R. Ogburn, Jerry Rodder, Melvin Jones, Barbara Robinson, Maureen Maher, Jonathan Riley, Trudy Hadler, and Nancy Wilson.*

Jim Nybakken, one of our fellow orchidophiles, passed away June 20 following a brave battle with leukemia. He served on the board of the Carmel Orchid Society, held the position of president twice, was a member of the Carmel Orchid Society for about 35 years, and was involved in the San Francisco Bay Area Orchid community as a lecturer, grower, and enthusiast for many years. Our condolences to his wife Betty.



Rich Copeland and Martha Skalak found native orchids on a recent hike and were kind enough to send photos and information for the newsletter:

Corallorhiza maculata (commonly called coral root orchids) are leafless plants that grow in oak and conifer woodlands. They do not have chlorophyll, and obtain all their nutrients from decaying matter, through the association of their roots with mycorrhizal fungi.

The plants were 6" to 8" tall, and the flowers were about 3/8" wide. We saw them on June 24, 2009 on the segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail that runs along Skyline Ridge, connecting Wunderlich and Huddart Parks. The orchids were located near the Wunderlich Park end of the trail, north of the switchbacks that run below the subdivision and south of the bench.





It was a lovely summer evening at the San Mateo Garden Center



Cym. Dancing Mother 'Kotone'
Gloria Bygdnes



Odm. Cristor x Mont a l'Abbe
Steve Beckendorf



L. purpurata (multiforme x venosa)
Jill and Jerry Rodder



Oda. McLaren Vale
Steve Beckendorf



Bollea coelestis
Chaunie Langland



Checking out the Show and Tell Table before the meeting



Phal. Taisuco Gem
Martha Skalak and Rich Copeland



Rene and Mary share flasking secrets while Ginette studies the sale table.



Acanthephippium antinianum
Kreg Martin



Amy and Dennis hold down the fort near the treats



Excellent turn out!



Gloria mugs for the camera as she chooses a carnivorous plant



Odm. No Name
Janusz Warszawski



Marlene checks out the fabulous Member Sales Table



Phrag. Sunset Glow
Sharon Langan



Myrmecophila christinae aka
Schom. brysiana Kreg Martin



Bulb. lepidum

Thanks to Cordy Wong and Fred Cox for sending some photos of plants they had in bloom during the June meeting - but were not able to bring in. Thanks for sharing!!



Top l to r:
Dtps. Kenneth Shubert
Sdr. japonica
Phal. Rare Vintage Patrick
Bottom l to r:
Neof. falcata
M. xerophyticum



Editor's Corner - it's all relative

The June meeting was a knock-out! Our normally great show-and-tell table was spectacular. We had giant plants (almost too large to bring) brought in by Kreg Martin and Jill and Jerry Rodder. Before they arrived with their incredibly large plants, I was already impressed with the sizes of some of the plants and the floriferousness of others.

The member sales table was also spectacular in volume, variety, and color. Plus, we started out with Ron Parsons bringing in a large box of carnivorous plants which he was giving away. All this, plus an excellent presentation and very nice opportunity table. This may have been our best meeting of the year. It was a night of large orchids, strange orchids, beautiful orchids, and amazingly cute orchids - something for everyone. Only half way through the year though, so this meeting may still be topped.

I came waltzing into the meeting with my *C. skinneri*, quite pleased that it had over 25 flowers. I rashly announced that I was ready for Jill and Jerry. Pretty soon Kreg Martin showed up with a very large pot of *C. gaskelliana* which made my Cat look like a mini-cat. This was soon followed by Ken staggering in with Jill and Jerry's gianormous *L. purpurata*, which made my Cat look like a little pot of African Violets. Well, so much for my glory moment. But, I do still have a bottle of Jerry's old rocket juice fertilizer in my garden shed. Maybe if I feed that to my *C. skinneri* for a year . . . Guess I better go buy an appropriate sized pot, just in case.



Large, well flowered *C. skinneri*



Kreg Martin's impressive *C. gaskelliana* on far right, small *C. skinneri* left.



Jill and Jerry Rodder's spectacular *L. purpurata*, left (did you have trouble spotting it?) and diminutive *C. skinneri* near the right.

Upcoming Events

August 8 - Speaker's Day - Tickets Still Available - 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, Paphiopedilums 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

Tickets still available: e-mail suewede@clearwire.net to reserve your tickets and send payment to Susan Wedegaertner at 1348 Kiernan Avenue, Modesto, CA 95346. Please make checks payable to CSNJC.

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 or 760-732-0055.

Announcements received:

New Maplethorpe Orchids Facebook group: Maplethorpe Orchids is a Soquel, Ca orchid retailer owned by George and Addie Stagi. This group is open to anyone. They look forward to hearing from a bunch of new people regarding many topics.

Cymbidium e-book website: Greetings - My name is Yvonne. I was a commercial grower of cymbidium orchids for the international cut flower market for 24 years and I have recently written an e-book titled "Cymbidium Care Made Easy". I believe this publication may be of interest to the newer members of your society who have a particular interest in growing cymbidiums. The e-book contains all the growing programmes we used to produce an abundance of flowers each year and advise on how to adapt this information to your individual environment. Website Address: <http://www.cymbidiumsbyvon.com>

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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)

July Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, July 24, 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

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*Remember - our meeting is the 4th
Friday of the month - not the last
Friday
See you on the 24th!*

*Peninsula Orchid Society
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