

# The Sheath

## September General Meeting

*Doors open at 7:00 PM*

Date: September 25, 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

**Special Start Time!!**  
**No Skill Session** this  
time!

Meeting plus Show and  
Tell Table  
**7:30 PM**  
followed by

**Visit with the  
Experts!**

Opportunity table  
provided by **Mary  
Gerritsen**

### Orchid Forum

*Bring in your questions and troubled plants to  
have answers by the experts*

We will have four large tables where there  
will be an orchid thematic expert.

Experts will rotate to give you a chance to  
have all your questions answered.

The Experts:

1. **Ron Parsons** on Orchid Photography
2. **Dennis Olivas** on Orchid Culture
3. **Mary Gerritsen** on Masdevallias and  
Cool Growing Orchids
4. **Gerardus Staal** on Plant Diseases and  
Plant Reproduction
5. **Tanya Lam** on Potting with Coconut

6. **Ken Jacobsen** on Cymbidium and  
Orchid Disease including Virus
7. **Dan Newman** on Orchid Species
8. **Fred Shull** on Cattleya

Be sure to wrap troubled plants such that  
other plants will not acquire the same  
trouble!

The **Opportunity Table** will be provided  
by Mary Gerritsen. She will bring a broad  
selection of cool and intermediate growing  
orchids and there are sure to be some fan-  
tastic plants in the collection.

## Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Mary Jensen, Marjorie Chahal, Dennis Olivas, Al Testa, Amy Jacobsen, Kreg Martin, Phyllis Chim, Mary Gerritsen, Sharon Langan, and Fred Shull.

Two issues of *The Sheath* go out each month. The e-mail edition and the snail mail edition. They are not identical. The goal on the e-mail version is for it to be no more than one MB in size since some members have dial-up service or slow DSL. The goal for the snail mail version is to have an even number of pages (so there are no blank pages) and to not have any more photo pages than needed to get to the even number of pages.

The reason I am mentioning this is so everyone who has snail mail realizes that you are missing a lot of the photos - some times you or your plant are in those photos! So, if you are interested in the photos, you might want to check out the *The Sheath* on the POS web page. All of the issues since January of 2008 can be found there under Newsletters. The website address is <http://penorchidsoc.org/>



Cyc. Jean E. Monnier  
Jackie Becker



*Cym. aloifolium*. 'Stirling'  
The Aloe-Leafed Cymbidium (sorry gang - didn't know that when I took the photo!) Barry Zimmerman



*Cym. finlaysonianum*. 'SP'  
Barry Zimmerman



*Sob. macrantha* Paul Reeves



*Neof. falcata* Sue Rose



*Trgl. fasciata* Ginette Sanchou



*Cnths. Warscewiczella - discolor 'Lil' x amazonica* Gloria Bygdnes



*Paph. Well Done x Norito Hasegawa* Fred Cox



*Paph. Dr. Brian Edwards Incharm* Tanya Lam



*C. hybrid* Mary Gerritsen



*Prom. Chameleon* Mary Gerritsen



A nice variety of *Pycopsis* hybrids Tanya Lam



*Dend. bracteosum* Kreg Martin



*Kefersteinia taurina* The Staals



*Onc. chrysomorphum* 'Marion'  
CBR/AOS The Staals



Bulb. Krairit Vejvarut



Susan Tong and Patrick Hoe



Paphs in bowl: l. and r. *godefroyae* v. *alba*, mid. *leucochilum*.  
Cordy Wong and Fred Cox



C. Penny Kuroda  
Jon-Michael Irvin



*Phal. bellina* Cordy Wong



*Stan. platyceras* Kreg Martin



*Paph. bellatulum* Cordy Wong



Dend. Big Alex x *alexandrae*  
Jon-Michael Irvin



*Bulb. biflorum* 'Lil' Avery Rock



It was a full house to hear Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids



*Dor. pulchaerrima* var. *chumporensis* x sib  
Donna Horn

## Editor's Corner

I have just come back in from fertilizing the cymbidiums, following last night's rain. I never did get around to repotting a single one this year. Two of them are already in bud! I bought a bare root *Neof. falcata* at the beginning of July - and left it sitting on my kitchen widow sill for two months, dunking it under the faucet every day. I finally planted it in moss in a net basket at the end of August - and it has three large buds on it now, about to open. Orchids, so delicate and difficult to grow - hardly! I certainly get away with a lot of neglect, and they still reward me for my meager endeavors. They really are wonderful.

If enough people try to pound the same message into me at the same time, I do finally notice. At the Speaker's Day in Sacramento in August, Roy Takanaga talked about his watering method - which is to water once, then go back and water several more times, to get the potting material truly wetted. Then, at our August POS meeting, Harry Phillips demonstrated his method of watering mounted plants. He uses a pump sprayer and goes back to each plant several times, until the roots have absorbed all they can and the mount is well soaked. Well, darn, all this time I thought it was normal for the older pseudobulbs to be wrinkled and dry looking. I also thought I was doing a good job with my spray bottle, since I went back and resprayed everything a second time, with multiply sprays each session. (And I do remember Amy Jacobsen telling me that hand spray bottles don't wet well enough, in the past.) A second thing I realized two days after Harry's talk - we were having HOT weather and I was spraying more than usual - was that the hand squeeze sprayers I was using were significantly contributing to my carpal tunnel syndrome.

I found a 2 liter pump sprayer on sale at Charlie's Greenhouse. (\$14.95.) When it arrived, I found it very difficult to pump up and thought that it was going to cause it's own repetitive motion injury pretty soon. However, I finally realized I hadn't screwed the lid on tightly enough, so the sprayer didn't have a good seal. Once I learned to tighten it enough, I found the amount of pumping to be reasonable. It operates with a thumb trigger. The pump sprayer delivers a lot more water than the hand sprayer, and there are plenty of plump pseudobulbs on the mounted orchids in the greenhouse now.

I also ordered a battery operated sprayer (about the same capacity and \$11.49 through Amazon, shipped by ACE hardware) that arrived today. Since it has an electric pump, it doesn't need to be tightened nearly as much as the hand pump sprayer. And, there are two lids, a small one on top of a large one, so you have a choice. This sprayer has a finger trigger. While the hand pump sprayer works with my hand issues, for someone with arthritis, it might not be possible to seal and unseal the lid. The battery operated sprayer might be a better option - however, it needs to be stored in a dry environment to prevent battery corrosion. It makes an annoying noise, but it sure is easy to use.

Another issue I have been dealing with a lot recently is pests. You will find a lot of advice on which chemical agents to use to deal with mealy bugs and scale, but I am trying to stay away from chemicals and keep the natural predators in my yard healthy. (If there are thrips in my orchids, I am not bright enough to have realized it yet.) Many club members have thousands of orchids and really have no other choice than to use chemicals. But for those of you who have small collections (meaning 1 to 400 orchids), I can recommend two methods of dealing with mealy bugs: (1) put your plant in a sheltered area outside where the predators in your yard can get at them; (2) put your affected plant next to your kitchen sink, or in some well lighted area you go to regularly, and use sharp ended tweezers to pull the mealy bugs off of your plant once or twice each day. Check all the crevices. Wait until a week after you have seen the last evidence of infestation, and the plant can go back to it's regular home. With scale, I have had less luck with the outside predators, and better luck with putting the plant next to the sink for regular cleaning off with fingers or a paper towel.

Slugs are another matter. I don't care how they reclassify *Schomburgkias*, my *Schom.* and my *Schom.* hybrid are constantly under attack by slugs in any area with new growth. Also, they have heartlessly eaten across all but one of the spikes on my large *Onc. Sharry Baby*. I have tried going out at night and picking slugs off, but that is like trying to keep the waves off the sand. I would appreciate ideas from you all on the best way to deal with the little i#%★!!#s in the greenhouse. Take care, Chaunie

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## Speakers' Day - August 8th in Sacramento

Several POS members attended the Speaker's Day in Sacramento on August 8, including Ken and Amy, Jackie, Dennis, Fred Cox, Cordy, Terry Boomer, and myself. It was a two hour drive, but we were greatly rewarded. The Sacramento Orchid Society hosted this event and they did a wonderful job.

The first event in the main room consisted of AOS judging with explanations of what was happening. The judges and plants were up at the front of the room and everyone could hear and see what was going on.

Then there was a break and people had time to make bids on items in the silent auction (there were close to 20 plants - and some very special ones were available - and some orchid related items). The other room had more AOS judging going on in the middle area and vendors around the edge of the room. There was a nice variety of plants, with prices ranging from \$8 to \$75.

The first speaker (11 AM) was Roy Takanaga of H&R Orchids in Hawaii. He spoke to us about the culture of dendrobiums. I was a little embarrassed when I realized the reason his name was so familiar to me was that I had knocked my Dend. Roy Takanaga onto the floor of my greenhouse several weeks before, broken the clay pot, and it was still waiting to be repotted. We learned that he had not made the hybrid himself, but had fallen in love with it, it hadn't been named yet, and the hybridizer agreed to let Roy name it for himself.

Roy talked about the need for lower night temperatures to bring dendrobiums into bloom. Nobile dendrobiums need to have 3 weeks of night temperatures in the 50s. Roy gave us a lot of information on which varieties can be grown outside here, which ones are deciduous, which ones bloom from old inflorescences, which ones bloom from old canes, and what night time temperatures are needed to induce flowering for various dendrobiums. He also talked about best watering practices for various dendrobium types. He mentioned that dendrobiums that have downward facing flowers are from heavy rain regions.

After lunch, our second speaker was Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations, on Color Inheritance Patterns in Orchids. This may sound like a dry topic - but it was not! Among the things Ron talked about were color expression blocking, color appearance due to surface texture, how splashes, spots, and lines work, why some orchids open one color and change to another, and color inheritance. After listening to his talk, I now understand how my phrag. seedling with two yellow parents turned out to be a dark red. This was a great talk for anyone who does orchid breeding and anyone who buys seedlings. One parent may be a certain color for a different reason than the other parent is that same color, causing several factors to come into play in the color of the seedling. One way to get a "white" flower can be to breed a pink with a yellow. Pink will block the color expression of the yellow, yellow will block the color expression of the pink, and the result is a white flower. When you breed this white flower with a true white flower, you may then get color expression in the offspring, rather than more white flowers.

Our final speaker was AOS President Carlos Fighetti, talking about phalaenopsis. Carlos showed photos taken at the big growers sites. Thirty million phals are grown each year by the big growers in Japan and Taiwan. Most of them are hybrids based on *phal. amabilis*. Ever wondered how the fancy multi-spiked large phals with the ultra-long perfectly curved inflorescences are grown? (Like the ones shown in photos of the Asian orchid shows.) The plants are kept at 75 degrees, day and night, until they have 6 to 7 leaves. This temperature keeps them from blooming. Then the temperature is dropped to bring the plants into spike - and they put out multiple spikes, due to their size. After that, the temperature is adjusted to control the length of the inflorescences, and the flower distribution. The inflorescences are trained over large metal forms as they grow. These plants are then sold for \$400 to \$500.

The final events of the day were "break-out" sessions, where each session leader - Roy, Ron, Carlos, and Dennis Olivas - met with an interested group of participants and had informal question and answer discussions on their topic.

This was a wonderful, informative event that was well worth the time and effort involved in getting to Sacramento. The Sacramento Orchid Society is to be commended on their excellent job of organizing this and thanked for all their efforts in pulling this off. I believe they intend to have another event next year.

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Some of the entries for AOS judging



H&R Nurseries brought a few things for us to look through



Roy Takanga of H&R Nurseries and our speaker on Dendrobiums



Judging in the sales room - standing I-r Dick Buchter & Charles Simms; seated Ken Jacobsen, Maynard Michel, Terry Boomer; just visible Ramon de los Santos



Silent Auction Table



Cordy and Fred picked up a few plants from the sales area



Alan Koch, of Gold Country Orchids, chaired the meeting and provided a free orchid to each person joining or renewing with AOS



Break time during the talks - time to hurry to the sales area!



Break-out sessions with Carlos Fighetti (above, white shirt), Ron McHatton (middle photo, blue shirt)



and Dennis Olivas (right, green shirt). Roy Takanaga also led an excellent session.



### Adopt a City!

The 2010 Show Committee held it's first meeting on September 14th at Sue Rose's home. Sue has graciously agreed to be show chair again this year and she knows how to get the ball rolling.

Mary Gerritsen has designed a truly outstanding poster for the show. We will be printing them and handing them out for distribution. They need to be placed on bulletin boards in places like Starbucks and Jamba Juice and next to cash registers at places like your hair stylists and auto mechanics.

We are looking for volunteers to be responsible for different Bay Area Cities. Maybe the one where you work or the one where you live. This would only take a few hours of your time and it does make a measurable difference in show attendance. Please call Sue Rose (650) 322-9853 or Ginette Sanchou (650) 361-8658 to adopt your city.

### Fill in for the editor

I am going to miss the September meeting. Rats!!! I am hoping that some of you will take photos of the Show & Tell table (take a photo of the tag first, then the flower) and the meeting events and share them with me for the newsletter. With my camera I find that I get better results without the flash. If you have a ring flash, then you may get good results with flash. Thanks to anyone who takes photos! E-mail or call me after the meeting and we can arrange for a data transfer.

### Orchid Conservation

Here are two links that will take you to interesting orchid conservation web sites:

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/update/16.html#3>

<http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org/>

### A Thought

Filling out the orchid name, parentage (if desired), comment, and your name on your computer and printing it, or on a typewriter, before you come to the meeting, for your Show & Tell orchids will make it easier on you when you set your plants up on the table and easier on the presenters too. And, yes, let's get to the true point of this - it would make getting the correct orchid names for the photos it so much easier on me!



Milt. Alger 'Paris'



*L. purpurata* var. *werkhauseri*



*Kefersteinia microcharis*

Milt. Belvedere 'George McMahon'



## Upcoming Events

Correction: The Sacramento Orchid Forum Show and Sale is listed twice in the AOS events section, once in September and once in October. Last month's *Sheath* listed the incorrect September date, the event actually will occur the first weekend in October.

**September 19 & 20 - D&D open greenhouse sale** - 9AM-4PM each day - Inventory reduction sale! There will be specials on hundreds of good plants at \$7.00 each.

Help your local orchid society. For every \$25 you spend, you may enter your local orchid society in a raffle for their monthly opportunity table. 40 healthy plants (some in bloom) will be award to the winning society. Winning society will be picked at the end of Sunday September 20th. The society must redeem their prize to D & D Flowers by the next open house which will take place in May of 2010. For more information contact Dennis Olivas at [d.olivas@comcast.net](mailto:d.olivas@comcast.net) or call (925)969-1246.

We are located in Half Moon Bay 1/3 mile east of Main Street off Hwy 92. Just east of Spanish Town on Hwy. 92 there is a house and firewood business. Turn onto the street between the house and firewood business and go over the bridge into the greenhouse complex. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you go beyond the large dinosaur statues in front of the house and Spanish Town and you are at Main Street, you've gone too far. Mahalo, Dennis

**October 3-4 - Sacramento Orchid Forum Fall Show**, Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Vivian Seller, 8609 Brodie Ct., Elk Grove, CA 95624; (916) 686-1530; [vrsellers@frontiernet.net](mailto:vrsellers@frontiernet.net).

**October 10 - Anna Chai will be holding an Open Greenhouse and Sale** - 10AM - 4PM. Plants also available from Pui Chin! This may well be a once in a lifetime opportunity to find divisions and plants from these two great growers, and shouldn't be missed! Anna's address is 2508 Sherbourne Drive, Belmont, 94002.

**October 14-18 - American Orchid Society Fall Meeting** - Huntington Library and Botanical Garden - San Marino, CA. For more information: <http://www.orchidshow.org>

**October 17 & 18 - World of Orchids - Diablo View Orchid Society** - sales open 9AM Saturday, show is from 10AM-5PM Sat. & Sun. Admission is \$2.00, children free. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill.

**October 23 - POS Annual Auction** - Plant entry from 4PM to 6PM

**November 7 & 8 - The Orchid Society of California Show and Sale** - Lakeside Garden Center (Lake Merritt), 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland -10AM to 5PM both days. For more information: [www.OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com](http://www.OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com)

**November 7 & 8 - 50th Annual Fall Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**- 8AM-5PM on Saturday, 9AM-4PM on Sunday. For more information call (800)553-3387 or <http://www.sborchid.com>

**November 28 & 29 - Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale** - "Orchids in Paradise" Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, 10 AM to 3 PM. Show free with museum admission. For more information visit <http://www.orchidsb.net>; Email [randumland@cox.net](mailto:randumland@cox.net); or call (805)962-6004.

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### September Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 25, 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.

## 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.

### **Tanya Lam Orchid Supplies** - for all orchid growing needs

Plastic Pots, Clear Pots, Net Pot, Baskets ❁ Fir Bark, Coconut Chips, Coir, Perlite, Lava Rock, Sphagnum Moss ❁ Fertilizer, Hangers, Superthrive, Plant Clips, Cork Bark, Tree Fern Mount ❁ and many more items!  
Contact Tanya Lam at 408-826-1101 or [tanyalam.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:tanyalam.orchids@gmail.com)  
Free delivery to SCOVS, MOS, POS, OSC, SFOS Monthly Meetings

**Entire Cymbidium collection** - over 280 plants - will sell as unit. Make offer. Plants can be seen at Maplethorpe Orchids in Soquel. Call Al Testa (408) 243-7788

### **The Orchids of Ecuador - January 2010** (Orchids and Bromelads)

Altitude Range: 298 to 4000 meters (977 to 13,123 feet)

Dates: January 15-January 28, 2010

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Quito

Duration: 14 days

Price: all inclusive except air fare. (min number of people = 6, max of people 11).

4, 5 pax : \$ 3300 p/p 6, 8 pax : \$ 2880 p/p 9, 11 pax : \$ 2600 p/p

Best regards, Guillermo Rivera South America Nature Tours Holmes Beach, Florida

((i) 941 447 2160 rivera@intecar.com.ar www.southamericanaturetours.com <<http://www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar/>>

If you are interested in more details, ask Chaunie or Mary to forward the entire e-mail to you

## 2009 Board of Directors

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*Web Editors:* Fred Cox & Cordy Wong

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# *Adopt a City!*

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