

The Sheath

June General Meeting

Date: June 25, 2010

Doors Open: 7:00 PM

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

Repotting Phrags

Chaunie Langland

Meeting plus Show and

Tell Table - 7:45 PM

followed by

Speaker: **Howard Gunn**

Phragmipediums

Opportunity table by

Howard Gunn

Phragmipediums Enjoyment and Culture Speaker: Howard Gunn

Our speaker for June will be Howard Gunn, a renowned orchid hobby grower who lives in Sacramento. The topic of his presentation will be the genus *Phragmipedium*, their enjoyment and culture. One of the first plants he was given at his first or second Sacramento Orchid Society Meeting was *Phragmipedium longifolium* var. *gracile* which was a small form of *longifolium*. He grew that until last year, when it got bacterial rot while he was away on a trip. That's over 40 years! Howard has about 50 *Phragmipediums*, and is well known for his method of growing *Phragmipedium besseae* vertically mounted, a clever solution to this species which is problematic to keep in a pot. You will see pictures of them in the program.

Howard defines himself as an "orchid hobbyist" and has been growing orchids since 1965. He has two greenhouses; an intermediate one that is 24' x 28' and a warm one that is 9' x 20'. He grows approximately 1900 orchids, of which 500 are Paphs and Phrags, 365 are

bulbophyllums, and the rest a miscellaneous mix. He estimates that he has about 1500 different orchid species. His slides are taken from plants in his collection, and he is the photographer as well as the grower. Howard is a popular speaker at orchid societies, and gives from 6 to 8 talks per year. In addition to speaking about *Phragmipediums*, he has also given programs on Miniature Species, Growing Specimen Plants, Bulbophyllums, Paphiopedilums, Dendrobiums, Leafless and other Weird Orchids, and Stanhopeas. His plants have won many awards from the AOS, including 6 CCMs, 2 CBRs, 3 CHMs, 2 CCEs, and 4 AMs. Howard has made a number of "orchid sightseeing" trips to Australia, Mexico and Ecuador.

Skill session will be given by Chaunie Langland on repotting phragmipediums. An experiment with a new type of clay pot will be started.

Opportunity Table: Howard will be supplying the opportunity table for the meeting with plants from his private collection.

POS 2010 Greenhouse Bus Tour

Want to see exotic orchids and plants that eat animals? Spend an exciting day with your friends during the 2010 Peninsula Orchid Society Bus Tour on Saturday, July 24th. Our tour will depart from the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo at 8:30 am. Please arrive by 8 am to ensure we will have time to load our belongings onto the bus. Our annual bus tour consists of visits to greenhouses in the Bay area, and is a great opportunity to purchase plants you might never find at a show. It is also a social event, with lots of food (snacks on the bus and lunch included), and the opportunity to get to know your fellow POS members a little better. Only those who have prepaid for the tour can get on the bus. You are welcome to bring your friends, orchid buddies, relatives...whoever you think would like this adventure.

This year, the highlights of the tour will be visiting Marni Turkel's greenhouses in Santa Rosa, Peter D'Amato's California Carnivores Nursery in Sebastopol, and finally Austin Creek Orchids in Petaluma. **Lunch will be provided but please bring some empty boxes to transport your purchases.**

Marni Turkel is a frequent contributor to Orchids, the official magazine of the American Orchid Society, and she has one of the most unusual collections of orchids, mainly species, you could ever hope to see. Her greenhouse is also technically interesting ...a great way to learn how to make the most of available space, grow miniatures, and create multiple greenhouse environments. Marni's orchids are mostly cool to intermediate growers. <http://marniturkel.com/Pages/orchids/o.sales/o.sales.html>

This year our society will visit a carnivorous plant nursery for the first time, California Carnivores. Please join us and visit the expert himself, Peter D'Amato, author of "The Savage Garden," the best single book on raising carnivorous plants, which make excellent companion plants to our beloved orchids. California Carnivores is the premier carnivorous plant nursery in the US, if not the world, and is a fascinating place to visit. We will have our lunch at on the grounds of California carnivores. <http://www.californiacarnivores.com>

Our final stop on the tour will be Austin Creek Orchids, owned by Dale Martin. Dale has many hybrids and species from the Cattleya alliance, Dendrobiums, Oncidium alliance, Paphs and Phrags. He also has wonderful Bulbophyllums, and many other unusual orchids. <http://www.austincreekorchids.com/Catalog.htm>

For more information or to sign up please contact Randall M. Takemoto-Hambleton at rmthor@gmail.com or 408-390-4324. The cost of the tour is \$40. This includes the bus transportation, lunch and snacks. **Checks, made out to Peninsula Orchid Society, may be sent to Randall at 20122 Pampas Ct., Saratoga, CA 95070 or given to him at June POS meeting.** First come first serve. We need at least 30 participants, but when the bus is full...well you snooze, you lose!

Please sign up as early as possible.

See you there,
Randall

Summary:

Date: July 24th **Cost: \$40** **Destinations:** Marni Turkel's, California Carnivores, and Austin Creek Orchids

Time: Arrive by **8:00 AM** to board, bus pulls out at 8:30 sharp, earlier if everyone has arrived and boarded. (Park on the street, not in parking lot please!)

Leaving from: San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Sign up: by June 30 But why not be kind to Randall and do it today? Once we get the minimum number needed to pay for the bus, he can go back to sleeping at night.



This was just the start of one of our biggest Show & Tell tables



C. Cognac
Fred Shull



Ascda. Mikasa Blue
Janusz Warszawski



Den. Patriot Beauty
Janusz Warszawski



L. speciosa
Fred Shull



C. intermedia var. alba 'Pine Knot'
Barry Zimmerman



C. mossiae var. coerulea
Barry Zimmerman



Bl. Digbyano-Purpurata
Barry Zimmerman



Epi. Rose Valley 'Caribbean'
Terry Boomer



Phrag. Ashley Wilkes
Chaunie Langland



Phrag. caudatum
Chaunie Langland



Masd. Sang Sub 'Kwan Hee', AM/AOS
Anna Chai



Odcdm. Wild Willie
The Staals

President's Corner

After each POS Annual Show in January of 2009 and 2010, one of the event organizers remarked to your Presidents about the difficulty experienced in recruiting show chairs for an event held soon after the holiday season, and the measurable decline in show attendance during rainy days; that a show in peak rainy season exposes POS to financial risk if bad weather should prevail for the entire duration of the show. These cautionary remarks require consideration by your Board of Directors, for reasons of prudence and efficient governance. None of its members wishes to be responsible for errors of judgment or for any oversight.

Your President performed some research on the matter. Our show costs are covered by rental of vendor space and admissions paid at the door, chiefly the latter. It is documented that POS show attendance declines remarkably both on Saturdays and Sundays if it rains. On some past rainy Sundays it made no economic sense to open the show building at all. It turns out that the odds of both days being rainy are at best one in nine (if taken to be two unrelated events, which might not be true). This has not occurred during the past twelve years. But in holding our Annual Show in January we are betting against nature, which seems unwise.

Our Show dates are not carved in stone. This past year, it was moved back three weeks from its early January custom. In fact, the date is an artifact of POS history. Its January date comes to us because in its early years, POS held an annual banquet to commemorate the installation of new officers at the beginning of the year. Some members thoughtfully provided orchid plants for banquet room décor. That display grew by slow stages. I quote *The Orchid Digest*, from March/April 1956:

“On January 6 at the new Elks Club in San Mateo, The Peninsula Orchid Society was host to some 200 members, guests and visitors at its Annual Banquet and first show with ribbon and *Orchid Digest* award judging.”

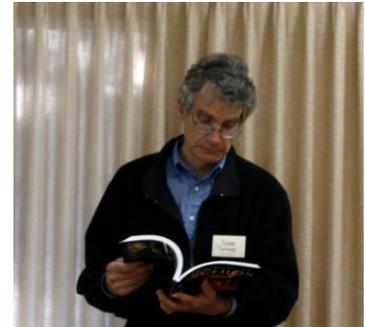
The rest of the long article makes for some quaint reading (especially the part about Dr. Ralph Wagner playing the marimba interlude), but the point is that POS just stumbled into the orchid show business, and the show date has never been thoughtfully analyzed.

When this taboo subject (not the marimba) was at last brought into the open, other POS Board members remarked that the January date was suited only to our members with *Laelia anceps*, complex *Paphs* and *Cym. erythrostylum* progeny to exhibit. A later date would provide a better display venue to the other 97% of POS members.

The conclusion is that for various reasons, your Board members are feeling it is appropriate to move the show date to a time later in the year, probably between beginning of April and middle of May: when there are few orchid shows, when vendors have nothing else doing, when the generality of our members have plants to enter, when it is less likely (don't look out the window) to be raining all week, and when our members are not in full holiday schedules, or recovering from one, and are even more likely to volunteer to lead, and to help.

We will conduct a poll of POS members at the June meeting, to test support for and hear objections to the proposal.

Todd



Todd checks out Greg Allikas' new book - it sold out at the meeting.

Show & Tell photos: No one looks their best under florescent lighting, even orchids. I often substitute photos of my Show & Tell orchids, taken at home, for the ones I take at the meeting because the lighting is so much nicer. You can do the same thing! Just send me a nicer photo of your orchid, and I will use that one in the newsletter. You can also send me photos of orchids that didn't make it to the Show & Tell table, for publication in the newsletter. Photos are published in the newsletter at low resolution. If you ever want a digital copy of a photo of your orchid, let me know and I will send you the high resolution version. Chaunie



Miltoniopsis vexillaria
Carol Zoltowski



Comparettia macroplectron
Chaunie Langland



Masd. Peach Fuzz 'Golden Giant', FCC/AOS Anna Chai



Phal. Raspberry Delight
Sharon deWit



Jill with Kreg's mom (OK, this isn't Cheers)



Cirr. makoyonum
Jackie Becker



Porrovallia Phil Jesup
Mary Gerritsen



Cypripedium pubescens
Randall Takemoto-Hambleton



Den. kingianum
Gloria Bygdnes



Milt. Up Country Puna
Martha and Rich



Anna, Greg Allikas, and Paul



Max. seideleii
Steve Kirby

Member News



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

Welcome to New Members: Kathy Barrett and Sabrina Pospisil!

AOS Judging at Peninsula Orchid Society July Meeting

(Start prepping those orchids now!)

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 in July 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 one of the AOS judges will explain the overall process. One judging team will be in the main room, and will judge several plants, while any other AOS teams will be in the Rose room. As judging starts, members are invited to gather around the main judging group to see the process in detail, or go to the Rose room to observe another team.

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 in July 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 in July, 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!

Cheers,

Ken Jacobsen



L. purpurata aco. 'I2112'
Jerry Rodder



Den. Aussie's Chip
The Staals



Den. devonianum
Ginette Sanchou



Phrag. Shizuko Kawatsura
Sharon Langan



Kefersteinia mystacina
Chaunie Langland



Zootrophion dayanum
Ginette Sanchou

Editor's Corner - Buying Plants for Beginning Orchid Growers

All of us have been there, and some of you are there now. You know that you have an excellent chance of killing the orchids you are considering buying. After all, you are just starting out and there is a lot to learn. You've already killed one or more. So, you decide that most of the orchids you buy should be VERY inexpensive. They are going to die anyway. You might buy young orchids from a vendor at a sale or you might order young seedlings from an orchid nursery selling on line. You are spending less than \$15 per plant. That way, when they die, you won't have lost so much money. It seems like the smart thing to do.

After you have done this for year, you are going to change your whole outlook. Those little plants that you got for such a good price have several issues. They may require two to 15 years to flower the first time, if you keep them alive that long. Being so young and tender, they are far more likely to succumb to any culture mistakes you make. Some may be doomed even before you buy them.

Whether they are in bloom or not, buying a well established plant is more likely to pay off in the short run and in the long run. If it is blooming, well, no matter what happens, at least you got to enjoy the bloom once. If it is not blooming, but it is established and blooming size, you have a good chance of seeing it in bloom within the next year. If not, it is far more likely to live long enough for you to figure out how to care for it correctly.

Should you spend \$300 for a plant? Probably not. But you should consider paying between \$20 and \$50 for a nice plant. It is better to have two nice plants than seven spindly seedlings or small divisions. You will have something to bring for Show & Tell! And you will have a reward for all of that effort you put into taking care of your plants. Save buying young orchids until you have enough experience to know what you are getting into and you have room to grow plants that won't be blooming for a while.

Upcoming Events

June 23 Sacramento Cymbidium Society Auction - Shepard Garden and Art Center • 3330 McKinley Boulevard in McKinley Park, Sacramento. Doors open 6 PM. Potluck dinner followed by auction.

July 17-18 D&D Orchids Open House & Sale - Half Moon Bay. 9AM-3PM. See details below.

July 9-11 The 30th Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair - Earl Warren Show grounds at Highway 101 and Las Positas Roads. Fri. & Sat. 9AM to 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is free, parking is \$5. <http://www.orchidfair.com/>

July 10 Japanese Style Neofinetia judging at Santa Barbara Show. Plant entry 9AM-1PM. Judging begins at 1PM

August 7 Speaker's Day - Oddfellows Building, 1831 Howe Ave. at Alta Arden, Sacramento. 9AM-5PM. Admission \$15, AOS members \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Mail your check to Susan Wedegaertner, 1348 Kiernan Ave., Modesto Ca 95356. Send her your check and she'll mail you a ticket. They sold out last year, so don't delay!

August 7 Palomar Orchid Society Annual Auction - Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. Preview 11 AM, Auction begins at noon.

Speaker's Day!

Saturday August 7, 2010

9AM to 5PM

[Oddfellow's Building](#) - 1831 Howe Ave at Alta Arden
Sacramento, Ca. 95838

Featuring

Glen Decker - Piping Rock Orchids -
Phragmipedium kovachii and its hybrids

Ron McHatton - Director of Education for the American
Orchid Society
Orchid Biology for the General Grower - part 2

Marguerite Webb - J&L Orchids -
Good Things Come in Small Packages, miniature orchids,
especially for warmer climes

Break out sessions with culture talks

Silent Auction divisions of awarded plants - even FCC's!

Vendors are [Piping Rock Orchids](#) - legal Phrag kovachiis & hybrids!
[J&L Orchids](#) - species and orchids for home, lights & greenhouses
[Gold Country Orchids](#) minicatts that bloom 2-3 times a year
&

D&D Flowers - Dennis Olivas - Dennis will have whatever the others don't.

D&D Flowers Summer Open House and Sale

will be on July 17 and 18, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Half Moon Bay. The greenhouse is not open to the public except for the open house events.

Really good deals... priced to sell. There is no list of plants available and divisions are sold on first come for serve. We will be having a \$7.00 sale on many cattleya, oncidium and cymbidium seedlings and back bulbs. We accept cash or checks but no credit cards.

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!



Palomar Orchid Society

Annual Orchid Auction

Saturday, August 7, 2010

Preview at 11AM, Auction at 12:00 noon

Location: Woman's Club of Carlsbad
3320 Monroe Street
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Directions: Go east off the 5 onto Carlsbad Village Drive. Go ¼ mile to Monroe and turn right. The Woman's Club is one block on the left. Parking is free in the rear of the building.

Monthly meetings: First Wednesday of the month at the Woman's Club. Culture class at 6:30 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Right:
Cordelia Wong's
*Paraphalaenopsis
laubakensis*

Photo by Mark
Pendleton

Japanese Style Neofinetia falcata Public Judging in Santa Barbara

The Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair is pleased to announce a new feature on Saturday July 10th, 2010- public judging of *Neofinetia falcata* in the Japanese style! Stop by at 1:00 PM to observe judging with commentary and answering of audience questions in both English and Japanese. Orchid Society members and the public are encouraged to bring their "Neo's" for judging.

The All Japan Neofinetia Society will hold Japanese-style Neofinetia judging in public on Saturday, July 10th, starting at 1 PM at the judging area next to the plant check tent. The appreciation of these "samurai" orchids is ancient and embodies the remarkable Japanese aesthetic. A century ago the AJNS formalized judging of the plant's foliage AND pot. Drop off plants at Orchid Limited booth between 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Pick up plants immediately after judging at the judging site or until 5:00 PM at the Orchid Limited booth. All of those submitting plants for judging will receive a gift from the All Japan Neofinetia Society. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for the top three Neofinetias.

Japanese style Neofinetia judging is primarily based on display alone. Flowers do not have to be present for judging as the Japanese look at the foliage, roots and overall presentation of the plant. Japanese look for the following in Neofinetia judging:

- Clean, well presented foliage.
- Good contrast in variegation if it is a known variegated cultivar
- Multiple growths, however, the number of growths is not as important as the overall display of the foliage.
- Decorative display pot (plastic or plain terra cotta are not used). We will accept decorative pots other than the traditional Japanese pots as they can be expensive and are not easily accessible in the US.
- The name of the variety displayed on a small label. Japanese characters are not necessary

We look forward to sharing this ancient style of orchid judging with you!

Judging is being coordinated by Jason Fischer and Satomi Kasahara.

Please contact Satomi Kasahara with any questions at: seed_engei@yahoo.com

Carmel Orchid Society Show & Sale, May 1, 2010

Carmel has combined their show with a general garden show. This makes it extra fun to visit. The weather was great and the amazing specimen plants entered in their show knocked my socks off. They had an extra beautiful display this year. Congratulations on a wonderful show!



The overall display was stunning



Cut flower division



Paph. hirsutissimum-, shown by Susan Phillips, had six flowers



Bletilla striata, a terrestrial species, shown by John OConnell



Bulb. Louis Saudar



Leptotes bicolor, shown by Emelita Harvey, won the Excellence in Orchid Culture Award



C. Galaxy



C. guatemalensis, Best in Show, 2nd year in a row, shown by Carol Easton



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: New, still in box, Charley's Greenhouse Low Flow Water Valve System. \$85. (Paid \$130, too lazy to return it.) Chaunie Langland (510) 494-8850.

Have some unused greenhouse equipment? Bought some type of potting material that you decided you don't like? Have old issues of orchid magazines? Want to sell some plants from that flask you bought? Looking for a particular orchid? This is the place to put your FREE ad!

June Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 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.

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.

2010 Board of Directors

<i>President:</i> Todd Kennedy 415-664-8851	<i>Vice President:</i> Mary Gerritsen 650-348-6492
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<i>Refreshment Chairpersons:</i> Rebecca Grubbs & Monica and Jon-Michael Irvin 650-921-4699	
<i>Sheath Editor:</i> Chaunie Langland 510-494-8850 the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net	
<i>Sheath Snail Mail Co-ordinator:</i> Jackie Becker	<i>Accountant:</i> Sue Rose 650-322-9853
<i>Web Editors:</i> Fred Cox & Cordelia Wong	<i>Society Mailing Address:</i> P.O.Box 6894
<i>Website address:</i> http://penorchidsoc.org	San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

Sign up for the Greenhouse Bus Tour
TODAY!

Peninsula Orchid Society
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