

The Sheath

August General Meeting

Date: August 27, 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

**How to Grow and Bloom
Beautiful Paphiopedilums**

Dennis Olivas

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

**Speaker: Norito
Hasegawa**

What's New in Paphs
Opportunity table by
Norito Hasegawa

What's New In Paphs Speaker Norito Hasegawa

Norito is well known for his beautiful paphiopedilum hybrids, and this month's talk, which had its origins as a seminar for orchid judges, is entitled "What's new in Paphs". Norito will be bringing plants for sale (parvisepalum, brachypetalum, multifloral plants - species & hybrids) and he is also supplying the opportunity table.

Norito Hasegawa is a retired dentist, an overextended hobbyist (considered commercial for tax purposes), and is a 3 million miler having traveled to many foreign countries talking and/or judging in places such as Japan, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Taiwan, England, France, Switzerland and many many cities in the USA.

He is primarily a hybridizer of Slipper Orchids (Paphiopedilum) although his interests and

collection of 15,000 orchids include miniature cattleyas, phalaenopsis, cymbidiums and variegated orchids of all sorts. He first became interested in orchids after seeing orchids in mass at the World Orchid Conference held in Long Beach in 1966.

After he bought his first orchids, he failed miserably, but persisted in trying to grow them outdoors, and in no time he had hundreds. Now, he can't imagine his life without orchids. Orchids are an endeavor of science, taxonomy, hybridizing, art, sociability, quiet reflections, and mad parties—join the addiction and fun.

He is married to Joyce and they have three children: Lisa, Todd and Mark. They each have paphiopedilums named after them. Norito is owner of Paphanatics, unLimited; a judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America for over 35 years.

This month's **skill session** will be given by **Dennis Olivas** and focus on how to grow and bloom paphiopedilums.



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



From Chris Rehmann, AOS President

On July 24, 2010, the Trustees of the American Orchid Society met to resolve the ongoing financial matters facing us.

As a major step taken to refocus the Society on our core values, the trustees approved the establishment of a task force to investigate the sale of the headquarters building. In addition, adjustments were made to the 2010-2011 budget to balance anticipated cash flow.

Current economic conditions are difficult and we must remain solvent in today's economy. The overhead cost associated with the building and gardens have diverted funds from the primary mission of the Society. The trustees believe that it is in the long-term best interest of the members to make these changes. The facility will continue with a full schedule of events and activities during the process.

Times are different now from those days when the decision was made to construct the headquarters. No one can say that the building and gardens are not beautiful. Many members have provided funds, time and labor to make the headquarters a first-class destination. We will never be able to thank them enough for their efforts.

It will be difficult to recover the value of the building because of today's economics, but if we do not plan now, we may miss opportunities that present themselves. The sale of a facility of this size will take time and it is not the intention of the trustees to sell the property at just any price.

Appropriate consultants will be retained to determine the potential uses allowed under current zoning as well as the feasibility of rezoning the property and professional appraisers will determine a fair market price. New locations will be investigated as well as the costs to relocate the Society's missions-related operations. We have much work ahead of us.

During the last ten years, many dedicated people have worked to make the facility a major asset to the Society. No one anticipated the economic disaster that has befallen all businesses worldwide. Non-profits everywhere have felt the devastating impact. The Trustees believe these actions are necessary to financially strengthen the AOS and ensure its ongoing contribution to the orchid community.

Sphagnum Moss

Reprinted with permission from Moutere River Company Limited of New Zealand

Most of us use Sphagnum moss without really thinking too much about it, except for the cost and quality. When I was looking for information about it, I came across this article on the Moutere River Company web page. Nigel Brown kindly gave me permission to reprint their article in our newsletter. Ed.

Mosses are a group of lower plants which, combined with liverworts and hornworts, form the botanical division Bryophyta. Mosses have a simple physiology showing little differentiation of cells and no root system. All green leafy plants are dependent on the process of photosynthesis to provide the energy that sustains their life. The requirements of carbon dioxide from the air, and water (usually from the soil) are met by various adaptations of the plant. Higher plants have developed thick outer protective layers ensuring the retention of water; the passage of carbon dioxide in to the plant is facilitated through the possession of stomata. Mosses have no such outer protective layer and the passage of carbon dioxide and water into the plant is directly through the cell walls of the plant. The loss of water through evaporation restricts their distribution to humid or aquatic habitats or bogs where water balance can be maintained.

Sphagnum moss bogs form in areas with high rainfall and low temperatures, or poor drainage. Under these conditions, nutrients are leached from the soil, leaving an acidic (sour) soil condition to which sphagnum moss is well suited. The soils of much of the land supporting sphagnum moss on the West Coast of New Zealand are gley podzols. Iron-humus pans are overlaid with cemented gravels; water logging and lack of oxygen cause the material higher in the profile to be a neutral grey in colour.

Constructed like a big sponge, sphagnum moss tends to retain the water and by releasing hydrogen ions, maintains the high acidity. One result is that the bacteria which normally breakdown plant matter can't thrive and the dead sphagnum moss accumulates, eventually forming peat. The acidity of sphagnum moss inhibits most bacterial growth and was used during World War One as a wound dressing, and sphagnum moss workers today report relief from such symptoms as warts, tinea and even skin cancer! Sphagnum moss has a high cation exchange capacity (which is the reason why it is used extensively in plant propagation either as sphagnum moss or in its decomposed peat moss state) which is to say that sphagnum moss has the ability to transfer nutrients extremely well; due predominantly to unesterified polyuronic acid molecules. By exchanging nutrient cations such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium for hydrogen ions, sphagnum moss lowers the pH of its surrounds.

Sphagnum mosses form a distinct sub-class within the mosses, and are characterised by having bunches of branches, some of which hang down and some of which are spreading, and also by the unique sphagnum moss leaf cells which enable the plant to absorb up to 20 times its own dry weight of water.

There are at least six species of sphagnum moss in New Zealand; *S. cristatum*, *S. australe* (antarcticum), *S. falcatum*, *S. subnitens*, *S. squarrosum*, and *S. subsecundum* (although *S. subsecundum* is probably complex and may be three or four species).

Sphagnum cristatum, the species which forms the backbone of the New Zealand sphagnum moss industry occurs throughout New Zealand and Australia. Its shoots are up to 30cm long and vary in colour from white to green to brown, though some moss also has a reddish tinge. *Sphagnum cristatum* has two types of leaves: broad, flat stem leaves and narrower, concave branch leaves. Having no root system, sphagnum moss relies on the outer layers of the stem and the wick-like action of its downward pointing branches to help transport groundwater upwards. Some sphagnum moss species protrude a considerable height out of the water as the fast capillary action of the sphagnum moss constantly supplies the growing parts with water. The whole sphagnum moss plant may never be seen to die and potentially could grow in

the same place for centuries, however, that part of the plant that is not decomposed is usually no more than ten years old. Boundaries between the parts of the sphagnum moss plant are uncertain or inconvenient so that one cannot differentiate between live and dead sphagnum moss parts with any degree of certainty.

Although the most common form of reproduction in sphagnum moss is asexual, (the plant propagating by bits breaking off and re-growing elsewhere) sphagnum moss is also capable of sexual reproduction. Spores form within dark coloured capsules at the tips of the branches. When mature, they explode out of the capsules and the sphagnum moss spores are released to the wind.

Sphagnum moss leaves are only one cell thick. They are made up of large empty, dead hyaline cells (the water containers) and narrow, living green cells containing chloroplasts. Like the leaves, sphagnum moss stems have large, empty hyaline cells with numerous pores to allow water movement up the plant. There are three or more layers in *Sphagnum cristatum*. The cells of the core of the stem are smaller than the hyaline cells, and have thicker walls. They give the plant support. In *Sphagnum cristatum* the hyaline cells of the stem have fibrils (as in the leaves) but this is not so for any other New Zealand sphagnum moss species.

Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Delia Carrillo, Fyfe Murdoch, Kevin Lapp, Joe Lee Sr., Scott Dallas, Zachery Coney, Ginette Sanchou, Janet Rector, Gwen Layritz, Susan Hamilton, Gregory Mayfield, and Susan Huff!

Welcome to New Members: Ria Do, David Shen, and John Benet!

Editor's corner

Well gang, I have a temporary job (yippee!!) at a medical devices company for the next 8 months, give or take, you know how these things go. I am running a scanning electron microscope there, working on a special project. Some time soon I will be changing to a later shift. The point of all this is that I don't expect to get to the meetings in time to take photos of the Show & Tell table during this time. Ken Jacobsen has offered to take photos when he comes to the meetings. So, if you don't see me there before the meeting starts, and you don't see Ken there, you might want to jump up there and take photos. Please take a photo of the tag that has the exhibitor's name and the plant name either before or immediately following the flower photo(s) of that plant. Then let me know you have the photos and we will work out a transfer method to get them into the newsletter.

Chaunie

Upcoming Events

September 11th & 12th San Francisco Orchid Society's Fall Sale. 2010 Orchids in the Park Gallery, SF County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers); Saturday September 11th 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday September 12th 10 am - 5 pm; Admission: \$ 3.00. For more information: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org or (415) 665-2468

September 18th California Orchids Fall Sale. California Orchids, 515 Aspen Rd., Bolinas. 9 AM to 4 PM. 415-868-0203 info@californiaorchids.com Go to www.californiaorchids.com for a map.

September 25th Coastal Valley Orchid Society's Orchid Expo. Grossman Gallery of the Lompoc Public Library 10 am - 4 pm. AOS Judging open to the public begins at noon;. Come see surrounding Central Coast Orchid Society displays, local grower displays how to grow outdoors, on a window sill, and in a greenhouse. Orchids for Sale by Central Coast Orchid Nurseries and Societies. Potting and mounting demonstration at 12 pm and 2 pm. Orchid Artwork on display as well. Admission is FREE!



2010

Coastal Valley Orchid Society
Of Lompoc
Proudly Presents the Fourth Annual

Orchid Expo & Sale

This Year's Theme
Orchids 101

Saturday, September 25, 2010
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lompoc Public Library
The Grossman Gallery

Come see surrounding Central Coast Orchid Society displays, local grower displays, how to grow outdoors, on a window sill, and in a greenhouse and learn about the Wonderful World of Orchids

Orchids for Sale by Central Coast Orchid Nurseries & Societies

Potting and mounting demonstration
12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Orchid Artwork on display

Accredited judges from the prestigious American Orchid Society (AOS) will be judging orchids beginning at 12 p.m. and the public is invited to observe the entire judging process!

Admission is FREE!

www.coastalvalleyorchidsociety.com

For more information contact Phil Rietz at 805-736-3020, Eileen Whitty at 805-733-2073,
or Van Bivans at 805-735-4541

San Francisco Orchid Society presents
Orchids in the Park
Sale and Exhibition

Saturday & Sunday
September 11 & 12, 2010
10 am - 5 pm

Gallery, San Francisco
County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco

Demonstrations,
Lectures, Raffle

Admission: \$3.00
(Children under 14 are free)

(415) 665-2468

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
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AOS Corner

By: Chris Rehmann

Lynn Fuller, the new Affiliated Society Chairperson has given me this opportunity to introduce myself to each of the Affiliated Society members through the AOS Corner. I am your new AOS President and have the pleasure to serve each of you for a one year term.

Who am I? Well, I am an orchid hobbyist like most of you. I grow mainly Cattleya species with some multi-flora Paphiopedilums to take up the darker spaces in my greenhouses. In order to support my "orchid habit," I own a Civil-Environmental Engineering firm located in southern New Jersey.

The Affiliated Societies are the backbone of the American Orchid Society. We all probably started as a member of a local society to find more information about these beautiful flowers called, orchids. My local society is the Sandpiper Orchid Society, located near Atlantic City, New Jersey. This great group of orchid lovers has assisted me in many ways to cultivate better orchids.

Walter Off, the co-owner of a local commercial orchid business helps to organize the Sandpiper Orchid Society and has been a tremendous assistance to new and long time growers. Walt provides information on local conditions that improve culture and eliminates the trial and error methods to find the right fertilizer for our local conditions.

I am sure each Affiliated Society has a local commercial grower that is involved with their group. Support them so that they are there to provide the best cultural information for your area.

Many commercial growers provide discounts to AOS members. Ask them to see if they participate in this program. If you are like me, I pay for my AOS membership with discounts from orchid purchases.

One of my initiatives is to provide better communication between the Affiliated Societies and the national organization. All too often, the AOS Trustees come to a Show that has been organized by an Affiliated Society, become engrossed in meetings and never mingle with our local members. After organizing the Show, raising funds to rent the venue needed, and all the backbreaking work to set up exhibits, it would be nice to be able to interact with your national leaders. It is my goal to encourage this discourse.

The Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium is being held in Virginia Beach, Virginia from October 27 – 31, 2010. This will be a great event. Please consider joining us at the Show. The hotel has given the event planners great prices so come for the weekend. There are international speakers from France and Germany. It is a once in a lifetime chance to hear their words of wisdom about orchid culture.

Thank you again for affording me the opportunity to serve you as President. It is a great Society of wonderful people. Join us. Become a member of the American Orchid Society.



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Dear Fellow Orchidist,

AOS CARES! The American Orchid Society cares about *YOUR opinions* and *YOUR needs*. We want to hear from you whether or not you are a current member.

We are ready to listen so please use the bottom of this page to note the 2-3 things you think *AOS does RIGHT*, and the 3-4 things you feel we *need to WORK ON*. Return this to your society's AOS Representative or President who will make sure we receive your response and you may be absolutely certain we will pay close attention to your message to us. Of course, you are welcome to return this directly to me. Thank you so much for taking the time to let us hear from you. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you at a future orchid event.

Best personal regards,

Chris Rehmann
President
150 Golden Eagle Drive
Hammonton, NJ 08037

What are we doing right?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What should we work on to better serve you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Would you like to help us better serve our orchid community?

Tell us what you would like to do.

- 1.
- 2.

Name & E-mail Address: _____

City/State OR Orchid Society: _____

Are you currently an AOS Member? Yes No

Thank you.

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!

August Board Meeting

The Board meeting will be held on Friday, August 27, 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
<i>Treasurer:</i> Trudy Hadler 510-483-1277	<i>Rec. Secretary:</i> Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037
<i>Corr. Secretary:</i> Judy Evans 650-593-8625	<i>Membership CP:</i> Janusz Warszawski 650-964-0560
<i>Ways & Means CP:</i> Randall Takemoto-Hambleton 408-390-4324	
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Chairpersons

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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
<i>Web Editors:</i> Fred Cox & Cordelia Wong	Society Mailing Address: P.O.Box 6894
Website address: http://penorchidsoc.org	San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

Photos from the July meeting, the Greenhouse Bus Tour, and member submitted photos will be issued as an addendum to the newsletter this month.

This newsletter has not been proofed by the usual suspects, so sorry for the errors and yes, they do spell things differently in New Zealand!

*Peninsula Orchid Society
The Sheath
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