

The Sheath

August General Meeting

Date: August 26, 2011

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 7:05PM

Fred Shull

Cattleya Culture

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

Speaker: **Marni Turkel**

Miniature Orchids

Opportunity table by
Marni Turkel

Less is More: Small Orchids Speaker Marni Turkel

A look at the joys, benefits, possibilities and challenges of miniature orchids. This presentation will cover some basics, such as "What makes an orchid an orchid," growing spaces both indoors and out, a review of cultural needs of orchids in general and small orchids in particular. It also includes a gallery of wonderful species that are space saving and extremely rewarding. This is an excellent talk for beginning as well as experienced growers.

Marni Turkel (pronounced tur KELL) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and has been growing orchids since 1980. She has been an active member of the San Francisco Orchid Society since 1982. She grows in three greenhouses in Santa Rosa with approximately 1000 sq ft of growing space. Her main interest is in cool-growing miniature species but plenty of larger plants have crept into her collection as well.

Marni is a contributor to Orchids magazine with her series called 'Well Worth the Space' and 'Give It a Rest'. Her articles have been translated into Dutch, German, Portuguese and Swedish for international publication. Photographs of her plants have been featured in articles in noted orchid publications including *Orchids Magazine*, *Orchid Digest*, *Richardiana*, *The Orchid Review*, and *The Australian Orchid Review*.

Marni has expanded her work with orchids to include propagation of orchids from seed and has set up a flasking lab of her own to take the process from start to finish. A working potter for over 40 years, she owns and manages Stony Point Ceramic Design.

Skill Session: **Fred Shull**, well known for his wonderful collection of Cattleyas, will give advice on Cattleya culture at 7:05 in the Rose Room.

Opportunity Table: **Marni** is bringing some wonderful goodies for our opportunity table this month!

Looking for Scale



Scale is one of the most common pests we find on our orchids. It is a small parasitic insect that feeds on sap from the orchid's vascular system. It can ruin the appearance and function of the leaves and weaken the plant. While there are thousands of types of scale, we are usually troubled by only a few of them.

The scale in these photos is

Biosduval scale. This scale is most likely to enter your collection via plants you acquire from other amateur

growers. Professional nurseries use a regular control program of an insecticide, with the brand name of Safari, that is not available to the general public to eliminate this pest as well as others from their stock.

Once the scale has attached itself to feed, it exudes a waxy shell. This shell helps protect it from predators and insecticides, making it difficult to eradicate.

The more common types of scale in beginners' collections are varieties of brown scale. These live on leaves and inflorescences

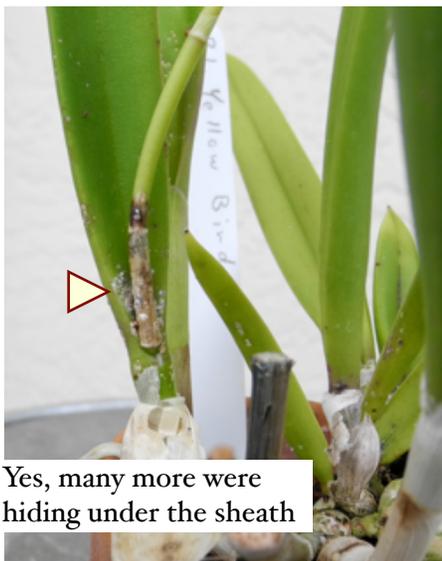


but do not hide under the sheaths.

To keep ahead of infestation issues it is a good idea to examine the tops and bottoms of your orchids' leaves and the inflorescences every week. When you find scale on your orchid, it is a good idea to manually remove as many as you can find, then use a systemic insecticide that contains Imidacloprid. Bayer 3-in-1 Rose and Flower Insect Killer is recommended by Dr. Gerardus Staal. This kills on contact (juveniles),

systemically (adults) and contains a fungicide. This product will also kill mealy bugs (another type of scale) and aphids, which are the other most common insect problems we have in our collections. (Sorry, it is not going to do anything to your slugs and snails.)

By treating your plants on an individual basis you will be able to keep your insect pest issues under control while keeping your insecticide use to a minimum.



THANKS to Dr. Gerardus Staal for his assistance with the article on Scale.

From the Bayer website:

How does Imidacloprid work?

Imidacloprid works by disrupting inhibiting stimuli transmission within the nervous system of a given insect when that insect either ingests or absorbs the poison into its body. More specifically, imidacloprid blocks a certain type of neuronal pathways which are much more prevalent in insects than mammals. That is why the chemical is much more toxic to insects than humans or animals.

Toxicity

The EPA gives Imidacloprid a class II or class III rating, meaning that it is "moderately toxic" and requires a Warning label. It has been termed a "potential" pollutant of ground water. Imidacloprid is not restricted or banned in any country. Always follow the label directions.

Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Ella Ancheta, Zach Coney, Scott Dallas, Susan Hamilton, Susan Huff, Gwen Layritz, Joe Lee, Sr., Tom Perlite, Jim Pertsch, Janet Rector, Ginette Sanchou, and Jeff Trimble.

WELCOME to New Members: Masaki Asuka, Usha Balaraman, and Joseph Kautz!

THANKS for the Goodies at the July meeting: Zach Coney, Doug Cunning, Tony Gee, Cassandra Gaunt, Donna Horn, Monica Irvin, Jon-Michael Irvin, Jasen Liu, Dennis Olivas, Pat Papa, Janusz Warszawski, and Cordelia Wong.

CONDOLENCES to Sharon Langan on the passing of her uncle.



Cirrhopetalum Makoyanum
Jackie Becker



Cattleya purpurata var. *carnea*
Donna Horn



Phalaenopsis No Name
Christine Kradjian



Laeliocattleya Opoped
(Ed. - this name seems unlikely)



Brassolaeliocattleya Haw Yuan Beauty
Janusz Warszawski



Odontoglossum Margarete Holm
Janusz Warszawski



Cattleya No Name



Dendrobium Maiden Charlotte
Anna Chai



Masdevallia Redshine 'Shela'
Anna Chai



Oncidium zelenkoanum 'Tamara'
Discovered in Panama in 2003



Odontioda Tan 'Rememberance'
The Coneys



Member Sales - Disas!!

CSNJC Speaker's Day 2011

As I write this I have just returned from Speaker's Day in Sacramento. How does the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center manage to put together such a great event every year? Attending from POS were Jackie Becker, Cordelia Wong, Fred Cox, Carol Zoltowski, Dennis Olivas, Kathy Barrett and your newsletter editor. It's a long drive, so it is worth staying overnight either Friday or Saturday - and it is very much worth the effort of going.

The morning started with an exhibition of AOS judging. This was an excellent follow-up to our July meeting. Golden Gate Orchids had entered a spectacular *Dendrobium laevifolium*. 'Sam's Choice' which had earned an AM (Award of Merit) of 81 points last year. This year it earned a CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) of 93 points AND an FCC (First Class Certificate) of 90 points. During the discussion prior to judging Liz Carlton was projecting her computer screen, showing the Awards Quarterly information, on a large screen so that the audience could see how the judges were researching the plant.

The head judge was Sue Wedegaertner. Judges participating in the meeting room were Nick Burnett, Dave Sorokowsky, Marc Hachadourian, and Alan Koch. Kathy Barrett, Rich Weymouth, Erich Michel, Ramon de los Santos, Carol Zoltowski, Curt Gean, Susan Wedegaertner, Tom Harper, and Dennis Olivas participated on teams that were judging in the other room. Students were Bill Sanders, Cecil Bullock, Liz Charlton, and Dennis Wade.

Next on the agenda was a half hour break, so we had time to go to the sales room for some fun and to examine the orchids being offered in the upcoming afternoon live auction and the items in the silent auction.

Our first speaker was Erich Michel of Michel Orchid Nursery located in Mooresville, Indiana. Erich started his talk, about "Unusual Orchids of Madagascar", by passing out salt water taffy. His talk covered the three major growing climates on Madagascar - wet rain forest, high plateau, and rain shadow. He had many wonderful photos of orchids *in-situ*.

Lunch was available on-site and I had the opportunity to talk with orchid enthusiasts attending from Nevada. Talk about your challenging growing conditions! (And yes, we had time to spend in the sales area again.)

The live auction followed lunch, with about 20 donated orchids auctioned by the irrepressible Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids. The top selling plant, with a winning bid of \$260, was a blooming *Phalaenopsis cornu cervi*, red form, donated by Ramon de los Santos. Many plants went for over \$100. Needless to say, it was a very exciting auction!

The first afternoon speaker was Marc Hachadourian, Curator, New York Botanical Gardens. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhzvmXZXzns>) In 45 minutes he managed to give a very interesting and useful presentation on "Fifty Great Orchids Everyone Should Grow". Each of these orchids has something especially appealing about it and most people should have an easy time blooming them.

The final afternoon speaker was Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids. Tom is the current president of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. Tom's talk was titled "12 Most Important Phalaenopsis Species Influencing Today's Hybrids". Tom talked about which characteristics each of the species contribute to hybrids, what the pros and cons of each species is in hybridizing, showed us photos of primary crosses and photos of complex crosses with a break down of the percentage of two or more species in each hybrid. Tom's information was nicely and clearly organized and was a great talk for anyone starting to consider making their own hybrids of any genus.

The final event of the day were the break-out sessions. Erich Michel answered questions on the Angraecum Alliance, Marc Hachadourian on Stanhopeas, Dennis Olivas on Cymbidiums and Tom Harper on Phalaenopsis.

The only bad thing is, it is not possible to split into multiple clones and talk with each speaker. Cordelia, Fred, Jackie and I talked with Tom Harper. He grows his Phals in Chilean Sphagnum Moss and waters about every two weeks. He finds that he can transplant his Phals in spike in moss and not lose the buds, whereas

when he used bark he would have bud blast. The pH of his water is 7 and the moss is around 3.5. The Phals need a pH of around 4.5 to 5.0 in order to absorb nutrients well, and he feels that the combination of his water pH with the moss pH combines to give the plants the pH they need during fertilization.

In an almost unimaginable occurrence, your newsletter editor forgot to take her camera, so there are no photos for the newsletter. You can see photos of the Golden Gate Orchids award winning dendrobium and the other awarded plants at <http://www.csnjc.org/>.

Thank You Judges!

Thank you to the AOS judges to come to our July meeting to perform the AOS judging demonstration and AOS judging. Ken Jacobsen (Head Judge), Japheth Ko, Dennis Olivas, Carol Klonowski, Todd Kennedy, Carol Zoltowski, Weegie Caughlan, Fred Shull, Maynard Michel, Helen Michel, Trudy Hadler.

Auction Volunteers Needed for Saturday, September 24th

Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

Plant Check-in (2 people plus Judy) 10:45AM-1:00PM

Plant Set-up (carry from check-in area to display area) 10:45AM-1:00PM

Runners (6 - 3 on each shift) 1:30PM-3:00PM and 3:15PM-5:00PM

White Board Writer (2 - 1 on each shift) 1:30PM-3:00PM and 3:15PM-5:00PM

Cashiers (2) 1:30-5:00PM

Refreshments (2) 12:30-5:00PM

Cashiers for \$5 Table - a new instant sale feature (2 - 1 on each shift) 1:30PM-3:00PM and 3:15PM-5:00PM

Hospitality (2) - answer questions on how things work

Please contact Dan Williamson 650-963-9403 enki_29205@yahoo.com or Mike Drilling 650-692-8998 mdrilling@pacbell.net to volunteer. This is one of two large fund raisers for the year.

Frank Fordyce

Frank Fordyce, a highly regarded Cattleya hybridizer, passed away August 17th. He and his daughter Sue most recently spoke at our July 2009 meeting. Frank is survived by his wife Madge, daughter Sue, and son Steve. According to the American Orchid Society web site, a public memorial service will be held Saturday, September 17 at Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivevina Ave., Livermore, beginning at 1PM. (<http://www.aos.org/default.aspx?id=1>) Obituary by Todd Kennedy on page 9.

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



Photo by
Ron Parsons

Saturday Sept 17, 2011
Sunday Sept 18, 2011
10 am-5 pm

County Fair Building
9th Ave & Lincoln Way
San Francisco

Admission \$4, Seniors \$3
Children under 16 free

Demonstrations, Lectures, Raffles
email: info@orchidsanfrancisco.org

a California Non-Profit 501(c) Corporation

California Orchids Fall Sale!
Saturday, September 24
9am-4pm
515 Aspen Rd Bolinas, CA 94924
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Great variety of species & hybrids for
indoor or outdoor growing. Supplies
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Upcoming Events

September 7th Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society special speaker, American Legion Hall at 1504 Minnesota Ave. San Jose, 7:30PM. T.J. Hartung is a board member of the Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens. He speaks excellent English. Kristina (SCVOS prez) met him when she was there. He took her group to see orchids *in situ*. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about Mexican orchids.

September 17th & 18th San Francisco Orchid Society's Fall Sale. 2011 Orchids in the Park, SF County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers), 10 am - 5 pm both days; general admission \$ 4, seniors \$3.

Orchids in the Park, Sept 17-18, 2011. Sponsored by the San Francisco Orchid Society, featuring more than 15 vendors and includes member sales, raffles, demonstrations, and exhibits. New this year, an Orchid Concierge service, to help patrons pick up their orchid purchases directly from the Hall of Flowers, and featuring special raffles of highly prized plants including a *Phragmipedium kovachii*. Please see the SFOS website for updates about vendors, parking, and related events:
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

September 23rd - no POS meeting because:

September 24th - yes Saturday - POS Annual Auction! Details in the September Sheath - which will come out the first week of September. Rules are very similar to last year - check out the October 2010 issue of The Sheath on the POS website. <http://penorchidsoc.org/newsletters/2010-10.pdf>

Plant check-in 11:00 to 1:00. Auction 1:30 to 5:00.

September 24 California Orchids Fall Sale 515 Aspen Rd, Bolinas, 9AM-4PM. for more information call 415-868-0203.

October 8 San Mateo Garden Center Open House, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, 10AM-4PM. All of the garden clubs who use the garden center will have tables with information about their societies and some will have plants for sale. POS will be there!

October 10 Peninsula Orchid Society board meeting. San Carlos Public Library. 7:00 - 9:00 PM. All POS members welcome to attend!

Cattleya Purpurata Culture
photos by Fred Shull



Fred grows his Cattleyas in an unheated greenhouse in San Leandro. They are watered with city water.

Right - *Cattleya purpurata* var. *sanguinea*
'Hot Nights', AM/AOS.

Purpuratas come in many color forms, from white to white with a pink to purple to dark blue lip to the color seen at right.



Left: the roots on the new growth are the correct length for optimal repotting.

JAMES FRANK FORDYCE 1924 - 2011

Frank Fordyce, who passed away on August 17 at the age of 87, was among the last surviving great hybridizers of *Cattleya* of the post-war era.

Frank was raised in Southern California and began working with plants at the Coolidge Rare Plant Nursery in Altadena, which was founded in 1905 and was the first grower and seller of hybrid orchids on the West Coast. His nursery career was cut short by World War II. Frank was a prisoner in Germany from early in the war, and he told tales of those experiences with a memory that was at times a little too vivid - of the end of those who fell behind on the marches when the camps were moved from place to place. Happily, Frank was among the survivors and upon return to the States, was employed as grower at the greenhouses established by Fred Stewart, a mass-builder of wartime cheap homes in the San Gabriel Valley. There he learned his *Cymbidiums* and *Cattleyas* from Ernest Hetherington, the manager of what was to become Fred Stewart Orchids.

Frank set up on his own in north San Diego County in 1964. It was at this time, when all other breeders were growing florist lines of *Cattleyas* such as Norman's Bay- Bonanza for purples, and Bow Bells-Bob Betts for whites, that Frank virtually invented the lines of bright colored *Cattleyas* then called (in typical sixties language) 'Art Shades', and miniature *Cattleyas*. Frank made friends with Maurice Lecoufle and came to be exclusive US licensee for plants produced by Morel's meristem technique, a secret known only to the Vacherot and Lecoufle firm. Among the great breeding plants Frank had available to him was *Laeliocattleya* Culminant 'La Tuilerie', as well as those most famous parents of pot plant orchids, *Oncidium* Palmyre, *Phalaenopsis* Antarctic and *Phalaenopsis* Henriette Lecoufle.

In 1969 Frank joined Rod McLellan Co. as orchid manager and he moved to the Bay Area. At the time, most of McLellan's business was the production and sale of boutonniere gardenias. Frank redefined the enterprise to its reputation as an orchid nursery. He completed the team of talent that made McLellan's great in the 1960s (Lester McDonald, who died too young, Bertie Martorana, Robert Jones, John Germaske - all important members of this society). It was at McLellan's that *Laelia milleri* was first discovered in an importation of *Laelia flava*, and its first, most obvious, hybrids made (Jinn and Zip) and so inclusion of Frank's bright miniature sophros was a natural. The origins of the greatest of all, *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Hazel Boyd and its descendants are well known as Frank's accomplishments at McLellan's.

After Rod McLellan's death Frank "went private" once again, starting a new nursery at the Orchid Ranch in Livermore. He made much use of *Laeliocattleya* Culminant and of his own favorite, *Cattleya* Horace 'Maxima', which between them parented very many *Cattleyas* in paler and pastel colors. Until then those colors were available only through use of Ferguson Beall's *Brassocattleya* Mount Anderson and *Brassocattleya* Mount Hood, whose progeny were very difficult to grow and keep alive. The Fordyce brand thus included both the very brightest and the most subtle colored of *Cattleyas*. Frank was ever on the lecture circuit, and a regular speaker at Peninsula Orchid Society meetings. He was the last of the great orchid exhibitors at shows - his cart, treasure chest, and curtains were easy to recognize as Frank always displayed to the show theme.

Frank suffered a stroke over ten years ago, but kept making hybrids, and even lecturing, to the end. He relied upon his daughter Sue, who made a duo in the operation of the Fordyce Orchids business, which is now smaller since the sale of the Orchid Ranch property.

Our condolences go out to Frank's wife, Madge, who was ever involved in whatever Frank was up to, but too often unseen.

C. T. Kennedy



Colmanara Wildcat 'Bob'
The Coneys



Neofinetia falcata
Chaunie Langland



Phalaenopsis speciosa 'C#1', or is it actually *tetraspis*?
Chaunie Langland



Some of the plants entered for AOS judging



The judging group giving the demonstration -
Japheth, Todd, Maynard, Dennis, and Carol



Phalaenopsis Joy Fairy Tale 'Joy'
Fred Cox



Phalaenopsis Equalacea grex Sapphire's Indigo Equalacea
Cordelia Wong



Phalaenopsis Guadalupe Pineda
Cordelia Wong



Dendrobium bellwiganum, pink form
The Staals



Promenaea Limelight
The Staals



Promenaea rollinsonii
The Staals

Valuable Orchid Collection Burglary by Weegie Caughlan

Sometime over the Aug 13-15 weekend, approximately 30, very large and very valuable, mostly feathered/flared or splashed Cymbidium Orchids and several Laelias, with a combined value in excess of \$30,000, were stolen from a private collection in a greenhouse in Half Moon Bay, California. I am sending this notice out in hopes that it will reach enough orchid people in enough areas to help find the person(s) responsible for this grand theft from a hobbyist grower and to hopefully recover some of these plants.

There is a substantial reward being offered to anyone with information leading to the person(s) who stole these plants. If you see or hear of any of these unique plants being offered for sale or hear of anyone purchasing one, please contact the goldcoastcymgrowers@gmail.com

The list may not be complete at this time and more plants may be added, but the one feature that distinguishes the majority of these plants is the fact that they are feathered/flared or splashed. Most were very healthy in crowded 2 gallon pots, ready to be divided.

Stolen Plants:

Applebee 'Royal Surprise' 2 gal very large	(Physical attraction X Camouflage Candy)
Beverly Cobb 'Evelyn Paley' 2 gal very large	very, very large 3 gal
Beverly Cobb 'Evelyn Paley' 1 gal	Pia Borg 'Flash' 2 gal very large
Blazing Rose 2 gal very large	Pinata 'Black Hole' 1 gal large
George Formby 2 gal	Prince Charles 'Carnival' 2 gal large
Happy Alex 'Splash' 2gal large	Rincon Fairy 2 gal very, very large
Hallelujah 'Bold Vision' 2 gal very large	Rocky Creek 'Gotcha' MP
Hallelujah 'Mount Vision' 2 gal very large	Suavely 'Wild Joker'
Howard Cobb 'Feathered Zita' 2 gal very large	Wild Woman 'Feathered'
Ivy Fung 'Harlequin'	Winter Fire 'Frosty Tips' Very large 1gal
Kakadu Sunset 'Fireglow 4' 1gal	Winter Fire 'Splash' Very large 1 gal
Kakadu Sunset 'Fireglow 4' 2gal	
Mainstem 'Hip Hop'	4 Laelia Anceps from SBOE
Memoria Gracie Allen 2 gal	Lc W... Splash petal from SBOE display
Nipomo Sunset 'Fiesta Flare' 2 gal very large	

It is truly sad when a hobbyist has to go the extremes of removing names and substituting numbers on their plants, or install motion sensor cameras and electric fencing and connections to a police department to protect their valuable collections from greedy thieves like the ones who decimated the Half Moon Bay collection. The worst part is these thieves were knowledgeable about their orchids and the names. None of the plants were in bloom, and with only a few exceptions, only the unusual feathered/flared/splashed ones were taken. Although devastated by the loss, the owner will attempt to restore the collection, but it will not happen overnight. Any help will be appreciated and kept confidential.

Education

A large part of the purpose of POS is education. Not only do we fulfill this purpose with our monthly programs at our meetings, but some of our members represent us at other garden related functions. Mike Drilling, Monica and Jon-Michael Irvin, and Janusz Warszawski gave a talk about general orchid culture at the San Mateo Arboretum Society in July. Their program was very well received.

Meeting Plans for the rest of 2011 and January 2012:

September 24 (Saturday) - POS Annual Auction

October 28 - Dan Newman on Maxillarias

November 25 - Annual business meeting, election of officers for 2012 board, social night

December - no meeting

January 27, 28, 29 - POS show in Redwood City

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Website address: <http://penorchidsoc.org>

San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

*Willing to be a member of the
nominating committee?
Or, interested in serving on the
2012 POS board?
Now is the time to let a current
board member know.*

*Peninsula Orchid Society
The Sheath
Chaunie Langland, Editor
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Fremont, CA 94536*