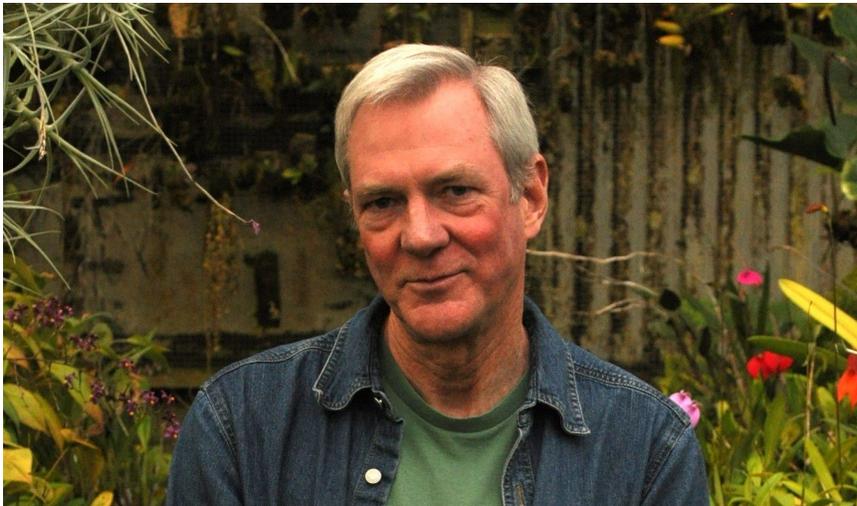


# *The Sheath*

Peninsula Orchid Society    San Mateo, CA    Vol. 5 of 2015

Next Meeting of Peninsula Orchid Society is May 22, 2015 at the Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.  
**Skill Session at 7:00 meeting at 7:30.**

OUR FEATURED SPEAKER for the April meeting is Dan Newman.



## **Hanging Gardens: Worts and All**

Every growing environment has its microclimates. By developing an understanding of the conditions in different parts of the growing area, we can position individual plants where they have the best chance to flourish. Sounds simple, but in practice, the process is more complicated. It involves a lot of trial and error, ongoing observation of results, and the willingness to make changes when needed - the last part being maybe the hardest!

After 12 years in my current greenhouse, I've made progress in some areas, but fallen behind in others. Whoever said orchids thrive on neglect must have been growing the plastic kind! The presentation will offer a look at different environments in the greenhouse and some of the things that grow there, with a candid discussion of what works and what doesn't. We'll also look at some of the dilemmas encountered in the continuing effort to become a better grower (or at least not a worse one).

Dan Newman started growing orchids in 1982. His first successful subject was a Dendrobium hybrid bought as a tiny seedling at a lei stand in the Honolulu Airport. When that plant finally grew up and bloomed a few years later, he was hooked! By 1996 he had 350 orchids in a one-

bedroom apartment. That year he moved his plants into a rented commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. He took over the large species collection of his friend and orchid mentor, Walter Teague, and his hobby evolved into his nursery, Hanging Gardens. Dan started growing orchids full-time in 2000, and moved to a larger greenhouse in Pacifica a few years later. He currently has 12,000 to 15,000 plants, mostly cool to intermediate growers (it's expensive to maintain really warm conditions in Pacifica). This number includes a few hybrids, but species make up his core collection and most of his sale stock.

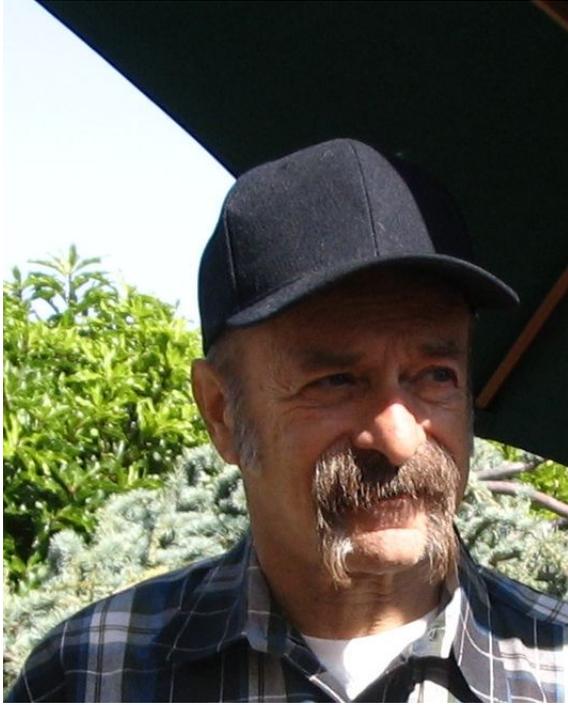
He also grows a variety of "companion plants", which share the natural habitats of orchids.

Dan is a long time POS member and shared his seemingly infinite knowledge as he introduced our Show & Tell Table at many meetings. He is also past president of the San Francisco Orchid Society. In recent years, he has spoken on a variety of topics to orchid societies in California and elsewhere.

Dan will offer the Opportunity Table at this meeting.

**SKILL SESSION:** Held in the Rose Room at 7:00 PM. This month's session is primarily for new members/beginners. The purpose is to get to know each other and to have a Q and A session, mostly to get new members to tell us what they are doing with their orchids and what they want to learn. We could then plan future sessions dedicated to specific subjects. Leaders: Janusz Warszawski, Rosalie Dedo and Anne Abramson.

## **MEMBER NEWS**



Fred Shull

Fred Shull passed away in late April after several years' decline in health. His death leaves us with few indeed of the patriarchs of Bay Area orchid growing from the 1970s. Fred will be remembered even by those who did not know him, by his formidable Yosemite Sam mustache as much as by the Cattleyas and Laelias he brought to our show and tell table each month. Other POS members knew him as our best-dressed member, an artifact of his career as CFO of the Rochester clothing chain.

Fred grew up in post-war San Fernando Valley, self-immersed in plant growing; by the mid-1950s to the dismay of his parents he had discovered orchids, had joined the Orchid Society of Southern California, and had started a collection of Cattleya hybrids – for the parents to take care of. At the end of the decade he had served out his time in the Air Force and could take charge of his plants himself. They came with him to San Francisco during the '60s, and at least a few survived within the memory of this writer.

Fred was part of the circle of orchid bachelors who made lively the '70s social scene in Bay Area orchid societies. He was President of the San Francisco society, but never of our own, though he considered us his home club because of location of his plants. He discovered the native orchids of Brazil, and made countless journeys there to attend the great *Laelia purpurata* shows of the Brazilian springtime, and brought back plants, mostly seedlings, of what he liked best. His tag name was Rio Orchids, and eventually he went quasi-commercial (with partner) in Allendale Orchids, an enterprise that

outlived IRS' recognition of its losses... we are told that no plant there deserved the ignominy of being placed in commerce.

Fred became an AOS judge in the 1980s, and was regularly seen at the shows in Northern California.

Many of our members collect famous orchids. Fred collected famous orchid greenhouses. He started with the real estate surrounding the 1920s Lord and Burnham that was part of the E W McLellan estate in Burlingame, in which brothers Edgar and Roderick learned to grow plants; this had also been the property of POS member Robert McElderry. Fred added to this greenhouse, as had Bob. Eventually Fred traded up to the former home of Dr C W Wilson in San Leandro. This included some six commercial-sized greenhouses plus potting sheds from which POS members Jack and Elaine Wilson conducted their own nursery-with-florist enterprise in the 1950s and '60s.

Even all of Fred's orchid plants failed to fill these houses, and there was space to spare for adding Cymbidiums to the mix under influence of Ken Jacobsen. Fred's disposable time in recent years went towards rehabilitation of the Wilson house, and he returned it to its former style as the showplace of San Leandro.

Fred continued attendance at POS meetings until the past year, bringing cars full of Cattleya and Laelia species and hybrids for our show and tell table. Most of these had multiple blooming growths and many were growing in 14- or 16- inch diameter pots. Fred was last seen at our auction in September.

C. Todd Kennedy

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

David Kurzrock - [kurzrock6@gmail.com](mailto:kurzrock6@gmail.com)

Frank Toyosaki - [franktoyosaki@yahoo.com](mailto:franktoyosaki@yahoo.com)

Jiann Toyosaki - [Jiann1112@gmail.com](mailto:Jiann1112@gmail.com)

**BIRTHDAYS!** We salute you whether you celebrate or not!

Margaret Boomer, Gloria Bygdnes, Rex Castell, Kun Young Chu, Patricia Coney, Stuart Dalton, Sharon Dalton, Judy Evans, Annie Green, Nancy Hardesty, Ken Jacobsen, Pat Kajikawa, Christine Kradjian, Eunyong Kwon, Pingyu Liu, Veyra Mercado, Anne Merics, Steve Proschan, Sue Rose, Missae Tanihana, Charlotte Thunen, Susan Tong.

## **THANKS TO THESE FOLKS FOR BRINGING REFRESHMENTS IN APRIL!**

Chih & Kimmy Wang, Pauline Wong, Patrick & Susan Tong, Janusz Warszawski, Chaunie Langland, Trudy Hadler, Betty Chinn, Annie Chan, Gloria Bygdnes, Chris Mende, Annie & Mike Green.

## **RECENT AOS AND CSA JUDGING RESULTS:**

Northern California Cym. and Paph. Alliance awards given to POS members at the April 18, 2015, Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show:

Cym. Alida Valley 'Epigarden' received an AM/AOS of 80 points and a S/CSA exhibited by Weegie Caughlan.

Cym. Dorothy Stockstill 'Desert Cascade' received a C/CSA of 84 points and a CCM/AOS of 89 points exhibited by Pierre Pujol.

Cypripedium tibeticum 'Woodside' AM/AOS received a B/CSA exhibited by Pierre Pujol.

Congratulations! The editors want to know when you (or your plants) are awarded!

## **CALENDAR OF SPRING SHOWS AND SALES**

***June 5 - 7, 2015:*** *San Jose Orchid Exhibition and Wine Tasting, by*

*RealOrchidGrowers.com.* \$10 Special Godiva Chocolates and Wines Preview Night on Fri 6:30 - 9:30 PM benefits the Orchid Conservation Alliance. \$5.00 Sat & Sun 9 AM - 5 PM. Winchester Mystery House, 525 S Winchester Blvd, San Jose, CA 95128.

Orchid Sales and Skill Sessions. For more info, call Bruce Davidson at (408) 623-0413, email BWDavidson2@BBNow.net visit their website at [www.RealOrchidGrowers.com](http://www.RealOrchidGrowers.com) or find them on Facebook.

*Come celebrate our 32nd Anniversary*

# BONSAI SHOW

## SAN MATEO GARDEN CENTER



SEI BOKU  
BONSAI KAI

# JUNE 6-7, 2015

Saturday and Sunday  
from 10am-4pm

**SPECIAL GUEST:  
DAVID NGUY**

**DAVID NGUY**, a Southern California bonsai artist will be our guest demonstrator. Often called Mr. California Juniper #2, he initially studied under Harry Hirao. In 2008, he traveled overseas and studied under the contemporary Japanese bonsai master, Masahiko Kimura. David will be demonstrating on a large collected California Juniper. After bending a large branch this past winter, he will continue to finish styling the tree to be raffled off at the conclusion of the demo on Saturday.

Please join us to welcome David to the Bay Area!

**Saturday: Demonstration; Noon - 3pm**

**Sunday: Open viewing workshop; Noon - 3pm**

- Door Prizes
- Tree Clinic
- Vendor Sales
- Plant Sales

**FREE ADMISSION**

**LOCATION:**

San Mateo Garden Center  
605 Parkside Way - San Mateo  
at Beresford Park near Alameda de las Pulgas

*\*\*\*Orchid Digest Speaker's Day June 13th, 2015: "Orchid Potpourri"\*\*\*  
Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108*

This 13th year of Speaker's Day includes lectures by Steven Beckendorf (Botanizing in Southeastern Peru), Marc Hachadourian (Species you shouldn't grow), Harold Koopowitz and Steven Hampson (Madagascar: Lemurs and Orchids), Peter Lin (Novelty Phals), and Carol Woodin (An Artist and Orchids). Plus AOS judging and select vendors. For more info visit [www.orchiddigest.org](http://www.orchiddigest.org)

*July 10 -12, 2015: 35th Annual Summer Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House. Friday & Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM. Held at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA. 93111. Visiting Guest Author: Dr. Ken Cameron, author of "Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation". Frequent potting and mounting demonstrations. And of course, the \$7.50 specials of seedlings, bare-roots, and Wayne's special annual pick of sprouted cymbidium back bulbs, select and awarded, species and hybrids, standard and miniatures. Call (800) 553-3387, e-mail [sboe@sborchid.com](mailto:sboe@sborchid.com) , or visit [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)*

### **Other Orchid Society Meetings in our area (Just in case you need something to do in your "spare time.")**

**First Tuesday:** San Francisco Orchid Society, San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

**Second Tuesday:** Sonoma County Orchid Society, Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. [www.sonomaorchids.com](http://www.sonomaorchids.com)

**Second Friday:** Napa Valley Orchid Society, 7 pm, Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa

**Third Monday:** Orchid Society of California, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, [www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com](http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com)

**Third Thursday:** Diablo Valley Orchid Society, Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, 7:30 pm. [www.diabloviewos.org](http://www.diabloviewos.org)

**Third Friday:** Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo; [www.goldcoastcymbidiumgrowers.com](http://www.goldcoastcymbidiumgrowers.com) (no meetings in June, July, August)

**Fourth Tuesday:** Marin Orchid Society, 6:30 pm, San Rafael Corporate Center, San Rafael

FROM THE EDITORS: we are happy to take a few photos when we attend meetings, but that we are not present at every meeting, and sometimes are present with only our phone cameras. So, make us work, make us compose those pages of pictures of our members' splendid plants, our members and speakers! We cannot print what we do not receive . Photo Credits for this month: Chaunie Langland-pictures of Fred and Dan, Sandi Gaunt-pictures of Sandi and Cassandra at the April Meeting, Susan Tong-pictures from the Bus Tour.

If any member receives an AOS or other award or trophy at any show this season please send the information to us. Also please tell us about shows, open houses, greenhouse tours or anything else of interest to our members. [peninsulaorcidssociet@yahoo.com](mailto:peninsulaorcidssociet@yahoo.com) or Diane dcharlotter@yahoo.com or Paul m2aestro@yahoo.com. Thanks!

April Meeting



Bus Tour



