



# *The Sheath*

## July General Meeting

Date: July 22, 2016

Time: Doors open at 7:00PM

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

Speaker this Month: Mary E. Gerritsen, Ph.D.

**Skill Session at 7:00PM**  
Janusz will have a Q&A  
session helpful to an Orchid  
Beginner

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

**Speaker: Mary Gerritsen**

**Title: Miniature Orchids and How  
to Grow Them**

**Opportunity Table by: Mary  
Gerritsen**



Topic: Miniature Orchids and How to Grow Them

Mary will introduce the world of miniature orchids, providing important general cultural information as well as introducing the audience to her favorite species.

Mary has been interested in plants for most of her adult life, and has been growing orchids on and off or the last 35 years, despite several cross country moves as part of her “other life” as a biomedical scientist. Her passion for orchids was rekindled when she moved to the San Francisco Bay area in 1997 and attended an orchid show. Returning home with a few plants, she decided to join the Peninsula Orchid Society (POS) to learn more about taking care of them, and from these beginnings, her current passion grew exponentially! Now Mary truly has put her roots down, and has orchids in two greenhouses, three lath houses, her front porch, sun room, and anywhere else she can put them. Her collection of about two thousand plants, mostly species, is rich in masdevallias and other miniature orchids of many different genera. She has co-authored three botanical books with co-author and photographer Ron Parsons “*Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World*”, “*Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and*

*their Relatives*”, and most recently, “*A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species*”. Mary is also an occasional contributor to the AOS magazine *Orchids*, and *Orchid Digest*. One of Mary’s favorite pastimes is to photograph orchids *in situ*, which also helps to gain a better understanding of their varied habitats. Her field trips have led her Central and South America, the Mediterranean, Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia and South Africa in addition to the US and Canada. Mary is an active member of the POS, having served as a director, vice-president, president, and show chair, and is a past president of the San Francisco Orchid Society (SFOS). She is currently the vice-president of the SFOS, and in addition, the treasurer and one of the directors of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. She also serves on the board of directors of the Orchid Digest.



### June Speaker

Thank you to **Steve Beckendorf** for his talk on: "Why are there so Many Orchids?"

We took a trip back thousands of years to learn how orchids self evolved or adapted to an environment or pollinator.

What an amazing story, including graphic depictions of how orchids mutated and adapted, producing such an amazing array of spectacular flowers and plants. Steve’s research must have spanned years of intensive study. Although, he is a Professor of Genetics.



### President’s Corner

**POS Annual Auction is on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Highlight the circle and mark you have already made on your calendars, and stick a Post-it on your refrigerator as well!**



## Auction Tips

**It is not too late.** While there are **only 57 days left** between our July meeting and the auction, there is still plenty of time to repot or remount and establish your orchids. Even so, sooner is preferable to later, so get going!

**A minimum bid may not be your ticket to a maximum auction price.** Required minimum bids are fine, but they sometimes limit the possibility of a bidding frenzy. A study of auction prices at Northwestern University found that “a low starting price led to a higher final price.” This is due to lower initial prices attracting more bidders and an “escalation effect” kicking in. Conversely, if you see an auction item you really want, making a large jump or “knockout” bid (increasing the bid by \$5 or \$10 or more instead of a smaller increment) often removes some or all of the competition, and may win you the item at a lower price. In effect, a required minimum bid acts as a knockout for some bidders, reducing interest and potentially lowering your sales price.

**Get there early if you want a promotion.** While that advice applies in the workplace too, in this case, if you want your orchids showcased prior to the auction, you need to turn in your auction list early enough so it can be promoted in the sheath and during meetings. Remember, the more items promoted, the more bidders attracted, and more bidders means higher auction prices. Look for an email from the POS with auction list and auction tag attachments that you can print out at home, or pick a list and tags up at the meetings in July or August.

### Other, non-auction items

**Win orchids on the cheap.** Remember, bringing food for the snack table entitles you to a free strip of raffle tickets, and bringing a plant for the show and tell table boosts your odds even more. If you bring in a plant to show, you may write your name on a slip of paper and put it in a basket on the show and tell table. One plant will be selected from the raffle table, and one of the contributors to the show and tell table will win that plant.

**Tell a friend.** If you enjoy our meetings, tell people about them. New members keep our society vibrant (and could help our auction’s success too, if I am being honest).



## Help Still Wanted

**Sheath Editor:** A brief monthly cutting and pasting tour that helps to keep your fellow members in the loop. Mike Rector is continually blushing from the effusive praise he receives for helping out on an interim basis, imagine the appreciation you will receive when you take over this important job longer term.

**Food Coordinator:** This job is already being done every month. All we need is to attach the official title to one of our wonderful helpers. Why not take the credit for what you are doing already? Making coffee, putting out cups, cleaning up later.

See the president or a board member at the March meeting to find out more or to volunteer for any of these positions.

**Beginners/New Members Forum and Ask an Expert:** Arrive early to get all of your orchid related questions answered. Both start at 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room.

### **Contribute to one table, get a chance to win at another table:**

Remember, bringing food for the snack table entitles you to a free strip of raffle tickets, but that is no longer the only way to get a chance to win without opening your wallet. We are reviving the tradition of rewarding those bringing in plants for the show and tell table. If you bring in a plant to show, you may write your name on a slip of paper and put it in a basket on the show and tell table. One plant will be selected from the raffle table, and one of the contributors to the show and tell table will win that plant. If you bring both food and a show and tell plant, you might need a bigger car to haul all your winnings home!

Remember, all those bringing in snacks are entitled to a free strip of raffle tickets. This month's raffle table looks very desirable, with Cattleyas available nowhere else. So bring a snack and boost your chances of winning big!



## Member News

### **A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Fe Araullo, Anna Chai, Paul Chim, Heidi Crespino, Trudy Hadler, Melvin Jones, Valerie Jones, Melvin Jones, Joseph Kautz, Jung Hee Ra, Shannon Simmons, Deadra St. Clair, Nancy Wilson, and Neal Winslow.

We wish you all the best and many more years of good growing.

### **Refreshments:**

Thank you to all that brought treats. Thank you very much! Anyone willing to take on the fun and helpful job of setting up the food table every month, perhaps job share with others on a month to month basis? Just send in your name and when you would like to do the setup.

### **Membership:**

Membership Renewals:

Annual membership dues are now past due. They can be paid by check or cash at our monthly meetings, on the website <http://penorchidsoc.org/membership.html> using Paypal, or mailed to the address provided in the 2016 Membership Renewal form, attached to this Newsletter. There are no changes to the fee scheduled for 2016. Please update your contact information, especially email addresses.



### **Orchid Supplies!**

#### **Supplies for sale:**

See Mike Drilling for information on “Purely Organic” fertilizer. Mike has repackaged the larger bags into smaller, easier to use bags.

## The POS Board of Directors

President:	Tom Mudge	tjmudge@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Neal Winslow	nwinslow4@comcast.net
Recording Secretary:	George Spangler	georges@iaspanglers.net
Corresponding Secretary:	Judy Evans	judyclint@aol.com
Membership:	Janusz Warszawski	janwar@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Sharon Langan	slangan3@att.net
Ways & Means:	Roey Shaviv	shaviv@sbcglobal.net
Director at Large:	Susan Tong	tongsusan2006@yahoo.com
Director at Large:	Eric Levenson	eric_levenson@pacbell.net
Past President:	Mike Drilling	mdrilling@pacbell.net
AOS Representative:	Chaunie Langland	chaunie.langland@earthlink.net
Refreshments:	(Your Name Here)	
Sheath Editor: (temp)	Mike Rector	mrector@verizon.net
Web Editor:	Joseph Kautz	jjbirder@yahoo.com
Our Mailing Address:	PO Box 6894 San Mateo, CA 94403-6894	
Website:	<a href="http://penorchidsoc.org">http://penorchidsoc.org</a>	
Facebook:	Peninsula Orchid Society of San Mateo	

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### Check out the AOS newly designed website!

It's user friendly and looks great. It's easy to find the answer to all questions orchid, including helpful, reliable information on how to grow your orchids. We will continue to add resources to support our Affiliated Societies such as the brand new and free, graphically rich, "*Guide to a Successful Orchid Show*" which can aid even the most experienced to stay organized and on-track while planning a show and the updated *List of Speakers* to help you plan society meeting programs. Here's the link: [www.AOS.org](http://www.AOS.org)



**Ever wonder what those crazy initials meant when people ogle over an AOS award listed on a plant tag. Here is the meaning of those short form award notes:**

**AOS Awards**

The American Orchid Society grants the following awards to orchids and exhibitors. AOS awards are a recognized measure of quality the world over and coveted by hobbyists and commercial growers alike. An AOS flower quality award adds value to an orchid in its own right, and as a parent for creating hybrids.

**HCC (Highly Commended Certificate)**

Awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 75 to 79 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

**AM (Award of Merit)**

Awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 80 to 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

**FCC (First Class Certificate)**

The highest flower-quality award, awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more on a 100-point scale.

**JC (Judges' Commendation)**

Given for distinctive characteristics that the judges unanimously feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways.

**AD (Award of Distinction)**

Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned.

**AQ (Award of Quality)**

Awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality award and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type.

**CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition)**

Awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest that has received no previous awards. The entire plant must be exhibited. This award is granted provisionally and filed with the judging center Chair pending taxonomic verification supplied by the exhibitor. (see Taxonomic Authorities)

**CHM (Certificate of Horticultural Merit)**

Awarded to a well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrid with characteristics that contribute to the horticultural aspects of orchidology, such as aesthetic appeal. This award is granted provisionally and filed with the judging center Chair pending taxonomic verification supplied by the exhibitor. (see Taxonomic Authorities)

**CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit)**

Awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must score more between 80 and 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

**CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence)**

Awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must score more than 90 points on a 100-point scale. Plants receiving this award represent the highest level of orchid culture.

## Tips By Chaunie:



### What is Your Hybrid Orchid's Name?

(Or, Using the RHS Website)

By **Chaunie Langland**

Orchid names follow many rules. Hybrids have their own subset of customs and rules. Hybrid orchid names are registered through the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). An orchid breeder may register a new hybrid right away, or they may choose to leave it unregistered. (In order to receive an AOS award a hybrid must be registered within a year of the award.)

You may buy an orchid with the grex name and the clonal name:

Odontocidium Catatanthe 'Pacific Sunspots', AM/AOS

Odontocidium is the genus

Catatante is the grex name that was registered with the RHS

'Pacific Sunspots' is the clonal name. This was either given to a particular plant when it was chosen for cloning or when it was awarded by the AOS. Any division of this plant, and divisions of divisions, or any clones made from this plant or its divisions will also have this clonal name. The quality award from the AOS also travels with this clonal name.

When you research this plant on the RHS website, you will find that it is now classified as an *Oncostele* rather than an *Odontocidium*. One of the parents, Colminara Wildcat, has been reclassified as *Oncostele* Wildcat.

The parents of Catatante are *Oncidium* Sphacetante and *Oncostele* Wildcat. If a breeder decided to use an *Oncidium* Sphacetante and an *Oncostele* Wildcat to breed *Odontocidium* Catatanthe and the breeder was selling seedlings from the resulting seeds, rather than divisions or clones of a Catatante, the breeder might chose to label the plants “*Oncidium* Sphacetante x *Oncostele* Wildcat”. The seedling is still named *Oncostele* Catatante, but the breeder is indicating to you that you are buying a seedling. What does this mean to you? This means that you can give your plant a clonal name of your choice! And if you take it in for AOS judging it will be judged against all previously awarded *Oncostele* (or *Odontocidium*) Catatantes rather than just against ‘Pacific Sunspots’. Your plant will not need to beat the previous score achieved by ‘Pacific Sunspots’ to be awarded.

Getting away from our specific example, when you buy a seedling tagged with the parents names, one of the first things you may want to do is check to see whether it is a registered cross or not. To do this, go to the RHS website ( <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp> ) Type in the parents names under parentage search.

To be safe - since genus names seem to be changed faster than the speed of light - do not type anything into the genus cells, leave them blank. Type in each of the grex names of the parents and then hit the search button. If your cross is registered, the registered name will come up. If no name is found, put the parent grex names in the opposite cells (seed and pollen parent) and try again. Though a cross made with the seed parent and pollen parent switched from the original registration, it still has the same grex name. Searching with the assignment order different from the originally registered order will give you an erroneous negative result.

The RHS site not give you any results if you enter anything misspelled. Another thing to try if you don’t get a result is to search online to see if the spelling is correct on your tag. Some nurseries are notorious for misspelling names on tags.

If your seedling cross has not been registered you have the option to contact the breeder, if you can find out who it is, and register it yourself with their permission. This allows you to choose the grex name. (I keep a data base of my purchases with the seller, where and when the purchase was made.)

There is another search you can do on this same page of the RHS website. If you have the grex name and want to find out the parents names, there is a section below the parentage search called grex search. Typing in the grex name, again without typing in the genus, will get the

parents for you. You may find the same grex name has many different geneses associated with it, but you should be able to pick out your plant.

One other thing you can do on the website is see type in the name of one plant in the Search Parentage section. This will give the a list of all of the registered crosses made with this parent.

Try it out and let me know if you have any questions!

1 Parentage Search can be used to identify any grexes from particular seed and pollen parents.

2 Grex Name Search can be used to find the parentage of particular grexes.

Parentage search

**Seed parent**

Genus

Grex

**Pollen parent**

Genus

Grex

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### **August 1-4, 2016 The Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society Presents the 15th annual Native Orchid Conference in Benson, AZ.**

If you are interested in North American Native Orchids you might enjoy this special opportunity to view orchids in their native habitat.

Ron Coleman, conference chair and author of many books on native orchids of CA, AZ & NM will lead this four day conference. It will have two days of talks by leading North American native orchid experts and two days of field trips into the “Sky Islands” mountains of AZ to see rare orchids. [Click here for more information](#) or complete the [Registration Form](#) to attend.

Additional information is available at <http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/conferences.html> or join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/The-Native-Orchid-Conference-Inc-292969950721047/>



# Orchids in the Park

San Francisco Orchid Society's Summer Show & Sale  
July 23 & 24, 2016 10 am - 5 pm

San Francisco County Fair Building  
(Hall of Flowers) 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way  
Golden Gate Park - San Francisco

Demonstrations/Raffle  
Admission: \$5, Seniors \$4, under 16 free.  
[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

Orchids in the Park, the San Francisco Orchid Society's summer show and sale, is coming on July 23-24. There will be a dozen or more vendors from around the country, and a large display area in the center of the show. Please help the SFOS get the word out by “liking” the page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/San-Francisco-Orchid-Society-150623501678349/>

and be sure to invite all your friends at the Facebook OITP page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/722045011271699/>

And the SFOS would like you to volunteer! There are a range of volunteer positions at the show you can fill to match your skills and physical abilities. You can sign up online with our event at Volunteer Spot (<http://vols.pt/9nDE34>).

As a thank-you, you will receive a “Show Bucks” coupon, which can be used as a \$5 credit towards buying plants at the show.

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Thank you!

Dave Hermeyer

President

San Francisco Orchid Society

AOS Speakers Day

July 30, 2016: California Sierra Nevada Speaker's Day. Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM Odd Fellows Hall 1831 Howe Ave (at Alta Arden) Sacramento, CA 95825 Tickets in advance are available from Susan Wedegaertnersgwede@gmail.com) for \$10 for affiliated societies or AOS members, at the door it's \$30.

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**Elegant Orchids**  
2nd Annual International Orchid Show  
and Sale at The Huntington

**October 21-23, 2016**  
Presented in conjunction with  
the American Orchid Society  
Fall Members' Meeting

Friday: Noon-4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Exhibits by Southern California orchid societies and international growers
- Orchids and related merchandise for sale from vendors from around the world
- Lectures for beginners and experts alike

*Psychopogon*  
New Gold

**THE HUNTINGTON**  
Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens  
1111 Oxford Road | San Marino, CA 91108  
More information: [huntington.org/OrchidShow](http://huntington.org/OrchidShow)



Thunia Gatttonensis



Solbralia macrantha  
Chaunie Langland



Tom with his  
*Phymatidium falcifolium*



Promenaea stapeliodes  
Chaunie Langland



Our charming visitors



Missed the tag



Schoenorchis fragrans  
Chaunie Langland



Tsubotaara Melinda Marie 'Blue  
Fairy'  
Tom Mudge



Anna and Jung



*Phalaenopsis stobartiana*  
Tom Mudge



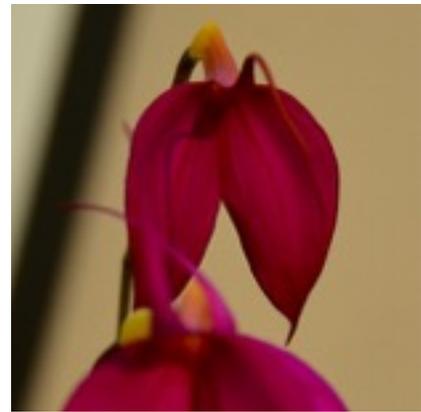
Our speaker Steve  
Beckendorf



*Broughtonia sanguine*  
Tom Mudge



*Cattleya purpurata*  
Bill Weaver



*Masdevallia coccinea*  
Dean Haas



Mike R. and Rex



Masdevallia Celine Dion (named  
for OUR Celine Dion, not the  
singer!) top.  
*Masdevallia welishii* right.  
Both brought by Dean Haas





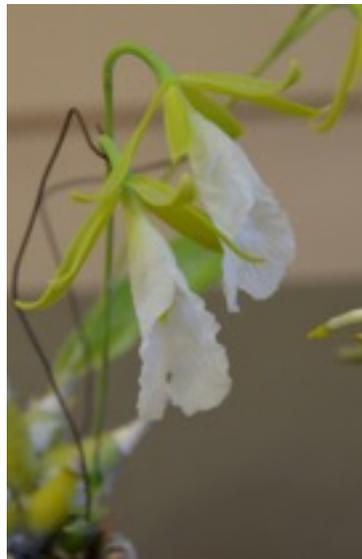
Asuka shielding himself with an Angraecum



Phragmipedium Bel Royal brought in by?



*Cattleya purpurata*  
Phyllis and Paul Chim



*Encyclia mariae*  
Eric Levenson



*Vanda falcata* var. *kibana*  
Anna Chai



*Barkeria spectabilis*  
Eric Levenson



Phyllis and Paul



Wilsonara Opalescent  
Janusz Warszawski



Ron has a story to tell our visitors!



*Odontocidium Catantae* 'Pacific Sun Spots'

Janusz Warszawski

A very popular clone, blooming repeatedly this



Dave



*Encyclia brassavola*  
Janusz Warszawski



Abraham keeps working before the meeting



*Elleanthus amethystinus*  
Asuka



Rex



*Prosthechea varicosa*  
Asuka



George



Left: Elleanthus species brought in by Asuka

Right: Dean Haas

Right: Nice hybrid Phalaenopsis brought in by Janusz



Janusz and Eric



Annie, Kimmy and Pauline enjoy the break!



A nice Cattleya hybrid that Dean brought in for sale.

**Thank you Chaunie for the Pics...**