

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sophrolaeliocattleya Dorothy Elliot,
grown by Linsie Hu



THE SHEATH

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUSAN GUTIERREZ

Hello Everyone,

We had really good attendance at our August meeting. Forty members and guests were present to hear Pierre Pujol speak about Cymbidium Culture. We had a great raffle table and there were some very happy attendees taking home plants they won! Thank you to all those that purchased tickets. We also had a very full Show and Tell table. It's nice to see all the wonderful orchids our members are growing. Thanks to Chaunie and Ron for providing the color commentary.

We are still in need of members to run for vacant board positions. The slate of nominees will be submitted at the October meeting and voted on by the membership at the November meeting. We really need to have a President and Vice President. Please consider helping our Society. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Chaunie - chaunieaos@gmail.com or me susangebrs@gmail.com.

Our upcoming auction on October 24 is also in need of volunteers. There is a need for runners, door monitors and help with clean up. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting or you may contact Dennis Olivas - d.olivas@comcast.net. Submissions for auction plants are starting to come in, so don't delay on going through your collection.

Be sure to bring your plants for show and tell. Fill out a tag with both the plant's name and your name for inclusion in the newsletter.

We could use help in setting up and putting away tables and chairs for our meeting. The doors open at 6:30 and all help is appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you on September 25. Bring a friend!

Susan

GROWING ORCHIDS OUTDOORS IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

SPEAKER: MARY GERRITSEN

Mary has been interested in plants for most of her adult life, and has been growing orchids on and off for the last 40 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 a local orchid society 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, five 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. Mary has traveled extensively to see orchids in situ, including many countries in Central and South America, Southeast Asia, as well as Australia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Madagascar, Europe & Mediterranean islands, the USA and Canada.

She has co-authored six botanical books with co-author and photographer Ron Parsons "Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World", "Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives", "A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species" (a two book set), "A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and their Culture" "The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture", and the recently released "The Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species, 2nd edition" (a four book set). Mary has served as president and vice president for both the Peninsula and San Francisco Orchid Societies, and is currently president and chief executive officer of the Orchid Conservation Alliance and a director of the Orchid Digest.

This month, Mary will present "Growing Orchids Outdoors in Coastal California". Opportunity table plants will be provided by Dennis Olivas.

ORCHID AUCTION

Our October auction is coming up on October 24th. Remember that you may only submit plant entries until October 11 or when we reach 150 plants entered, whichever happens first! Available entry slots are filling up!

The board is looking for members to donate refreshments to the auction – refreshments would be for both volunteers and attendees. Any refreshments donated for the auction will be greatly appreciated!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9-10 - Fall Orchid Market, Carmel Orchid Society

Orchid and companion plants for sale, orchid displays, growing lectures, and repotting demonstrations. Please visit <https://www.carmelorchidsociety.org/events/> for updates on additional information.

October 20 - Huntington Fall Orchid Event

From 10 AM to 7:30 PM at the The Huntington Library & Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA. There will be lectures, orchid sales, and a happy hour with an auction and dinner. Register online at <https://www.orchiddigest.org/202-speakers-day>.

October 24 - Peninsula Orchid Society Auction

Auction begins at 1:30 PM, at the San Mateo Garden Center. Refreshment donations for the auction are welcome and appreciated. Please see details above for more information!

MEMBER NEWS

If you would like your pictures to be in the next month's newsletter, send them to our email by the end of this month. Please include the plant names and clear pictures.

Happy birthday to Mary Gerritsen, Lana Hur, Amy Jacobsen, Mary Jensen, Dennis Olivas, Denise Smurthwaite, Jeannie Tam, and Yang Zhao!



Meeting Agenda

6:30 PM - Garden Center doors open

7:00 PM - Zoom meeting opens

7:00 PM - Mary Gerritsen

8:00 PM - Announcements

8:10 PM - Show and Tell

Opportunity Table - Dennis Olivas

Reminder

Our general meetings are the fourth Friday of every month, except for December when it's the third Friday.

2026 Board

President: Susan Gutierrez

Recording Secretary: Leena Wang

Treasurer: Dan Williamson

Membership Chair: Lolita Kwan

Ways and Means: Dennis Olivas

Director at Large: Sylvia Darr

Director at Large: Ken Jacobsen

Director at Large: James Shao

Past President: Dennis Olivas

Do you have something you would like to include in the next newsletter?
Send an email to penorchidsoc@yahoo.com!

AUGUST SHOW & TELL

Many thanks to Paul Asente, who took photos of the show and tell!



Laeliocattleya Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flare' AM/AOS (Pierre Pujol)

Dendrobium wardianum (Dan Williamson)

Cattleya bicalhoi 'Memoria Jackson Perdue' HCC/AOS (Chaunie Langland)

Cattleya Pornthip x *Brassolaeliocattleya Orglade's Grand* 'Tianmu' (Natalia Margulis)



Brassolaeliocattleya Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela' (Pierre Pujol)
Sophrolaeliocattleya Vallezac x Laelia Biegeri (Helena Wee)
Zygopetalum Happy Bay 'Radio Man' x Freestyle Meadows 'Ruby Lips' (Paul Asente)
Dendrobium Aussie's Hi-lo (Catherine Obillo)