

# The Sheath

## August General Meeting

Date: August 22, 2008

Time: 7:45 PM General Meeting

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

### **Stanhopea Culture presented by Dr. Doug Pulley**

Dr. Pulley has been raising orchids for more than 34 years. It all started when his wife gave him a cattleya for his birthday on April 1st, 1974, and he gave her another three weeks later. He took advantage of the Armacost & Royston moving sale that year; he had over 100 orchids by that August.

Doug and his wife moved to Los Gatos in 1976 and installed a greenhouse. He received his first AM/AOS award in 1979 on an Angraecum, a seedling purchased for \$5 from the A&R sale. Soon he started breeding orchids. His over 200 orchid hybrids include Cattleya, Miltonia, Dendrobium, Angraecum, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, Cymbidium, and Stanhopea. Dr. Pulley is the world's foremost breeder of Stanhopeas, having made about half of all hybrids ever registered. His plants have won more than 25 AOS awards. He has spoken at seven societies in northern California, including San Francisco. Doug has been President and Vice President of the Santa

**4th Friday** not Last  
Friday

Skill Session at 7:00PM

**Randall M. Takemoto-  
Hambleton**

**Carnivorous Plants**

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

Speaker: **Doug Pulley**

**Stanhopea Culture**

Opportunity table: **Doug  
Pulley**

Clara Valley Orchid Society a total of seven years. Professionally he is an Ophthalmologist.

Doug's website [www.dpulleyorchids.com](http://www.dpulleyorchids.com) contains complete instructions on Stanhopea Culture and how to bloom Stanhopeas in pots. The website also features photos of several Stanhopeas, Phragmipediums and others, but availability of plants is out of date. He welcomes visitors to his greenhouse in Los Gatos (by appointment only). Please call (408) 399-3123 and he will return your call. (We visited his greenhouse last year on the greenhouse bus tour.)

Stanhopeas are well-known for their wonderful fragrance!

Doug Pulley will also be providing an outstanding opportunity table and he will also be bringing orchids to sell at the meeting.

### **Skill Session**

Our Skill session will be something very unusual. Carnivorous plants as companions to orchids. Randall M. Takemoto-Hambleton will bring in some intriguing examples and will discuss the care and feeding of these unusual plants.

(Ron Parsons photo of Pinguicula-gypsicola)



### President's Corner

Our August meeting will feature Doug Pulley, a well known Bay Area orchid hybridizer and specialist in Stanhopea. August is a month that many of the Stanhopea species and hybrids bloom, so it is particularly timely that Doug will be our speaker this month.

(Photo at right - Ron Parsons photo of Stanhopea-oculata)

And, for a change, a skill session on carnivorous plants, very suitable companion plants for your orchids. Thanks Randall Takemoto-Hambleton for your introduction to this interesting plant group. Coming events-our bus trip August 16 (we will post a story on the website after the event) and our annual auction in October. We are planning some new things for the auction this year, which we will announce at the next POS meeting and discuss in the September newsletter and on our website.



And a final note, and a reminder for everyone. Due to some unexpected conflicts with the Sonoma Orchid Society (who had also scheduled their orchid show for the same dates in February as we had-blame the superbowl for moving their date back a week and wrecking havoc with all the scheduling!), we had to make a last minute change in the dates for the 2009 Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale. With the cooperation of the Gold Coast Cymbidium society (who usually holds their auction on this weekend but kindly moved their auction to February), we were able to secure the dates of January 16 (set up) 17 and 18th. The show will be at the community activities building (our usual venue) in Redwood City. Our show chair will be Sue Rose, and she will be working out the details over the next few months.

Mary Gerritsen  
President, POS.

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### Member News



*A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Scott Dallas, Kate Frankenfield, Zachery Coney, Catherine Walden, Ginette Sanchou, Janet Rector, Salma Jetha, Gwen Layritz, Mary Vizzi, Susan Hamilton, Nancy Harmon, Eugene Standifer, and Susan Huff.*

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### Meeting Refreshments

Earn a free strip of Opportunity Table Tickets by bringing refreshments to any of the meetings! Your fellow members love all kinds of goodies. Please see either Olga Ostrovsky or Rebecca Grubbs for your "thank you" strip of opportunity tickets!

### September Board Meeting

The September Board meeting will be held on Wednesday the 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Brett Francis, 32 Jetter St., Redwood City. The board meetings are open to all members and we'd like to encourage you to attend.



V. Yuuko Iso-Sumido 'Ted Sumida'  
Tanya Lam



Neof. falcata v. yodonomatsu  
Anna Chai



Paph. Vanda Pearman



Ken and Brett



Houletia tigrina Dan Newman



Masd. Tom Nasser 'Young Ik' AM/AOS  
Anna Chai



Paph. rothschildianum Fred Cox



Houletia tigrina Dan Newman



Amy and Mike

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**STANHOPEA CULTURE BY DR. DOUG PULLEY**

Stanhopeas are among the easiest orchids to grow. They will grow vigorously and bloom easily under widely varied conditions.

Blossoms are fantastically unusual "jungle gems" of curious shape, 4-8" across and 2-12 per spike, depending on variety and culture. The blossom spike grows downward through the planting mixture, so they will not bloom in a pot. Flowers hang below the plant.

Mature plants (bulbs larger than 1" diameter) must be planted in baskets lined with moss so the spikes can find a way out. I recommend 1" wire mesh, easy to cut out and form your own square basket 4-5" deep and 5-8" across, lined with moss, and filled with mix around the roots. Or you can use plastic baskets from <http://www.orchidbasket.com>. I use approximately 70% small bark, 20% medium perlite, 5% charcoal and 5% fine hapuu, chunk peat moss, or coir for my potting mix. They can be grown in 100% New Zealand sphagnum moss as well.

Stanhopeas do best in cool to intermediate temperatures, but will easily tolerate 40-100°F. They will grow well in low to high light, but seem to bloom best in medium light. They are best a hanging plant, but seedlings grow well in pots on or under the bench, even with only indirect light.

As spring turns warm, you can water nearly every bright day for best blooming in mid-to-late summer. Frequent watering in the summer is your key to blooming. Taper watering in the fall. Some species, such as *hernandezii*, *insignis*, *jenischiana*, and *martiana* prefer a cool to cold and dry winter.

Fertilize with 30-10-10 or similar every 2 weeks April-October, less in other seasons. Repotting is necessary every year for fast-growing seedlings, but a mature plant in a basket can wait 2-3 years if it is doing well. If new growths poke out through the basket, you can just cut the wire around them and include it inside the new basket.

The one drawback is that flowers only last 5-7 days, which is why so few are awarded. But you'll know they're there!! No other orchid has such pleasantly powerful fragrances, and some continue to perfume the air at night. *Stanhopea connata* smells like narcissus; *panamensis* like wintergreen; *oculata* 'Chocolate Mint' speaks for itself; while *tricornis*, *reichenbachiana* and some clones of *grandiflora* have the sensuous fragrance of the Naked Lady Lily. A big plant will bloom for 2-4 months, one spike after another.

Pests are unusual, except that Stanhopeas seem quite susceptible to mites. If you start seeing multiple small spots on the leaves, spray with a good miticide (Pentac, Mavrik or Talstar), 3 applications 7-10 days apart. Stanhopeas aren't fussy, and you'll love 'em!

### Editor's Corner

It was the POS show in January of 2001. I was strolling through the show area. Suddenly I saw it. "Good Heavens", I thought, "that is the most beautiful, soft looking, orange *paphiopedilum*! I had no idea anything like this existed." And so my love of besseae type *phragmipediums* began.

As you may have guessed, I had a long way to go before I would be able to successfully grow these. I bought my first phrag at the POS auction that October - a blooming Don Wimber from Dennis Olivas. I struggled to keep it alive, longing to see it in bloom again. Eventually I read an article in *Orchids* magazine that recommended holding your phrags under the running faucet for a minute every morning. I tried it right away. After a couple of weeks of this, Don was not looking too happy, so I knocked that off and he recovered. But, still no inflorescence. In August of 2003 *Orchids* published an article on besseae culture written by Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids. Still not much of an orchid grower, I was able to glean from this article that Don might need more light. In October I finally had my first bud, of three, open. The next fall I think I had two buds, however, I had not yet come to believe in fertilizing more than 1 or 2 times a year.

In 2006 I started buying more phrags. The other thing that happened in 2006 was that I started coming to most of the POS meetings. Prior to that I only came once every 12 to 18 months. Glen's article was reread and I bought a water distiller to easily provide higher quality water. (The water in north Fremont has TDS over 200 ppm.) Under the influence of Susan Tong, I started fertilizing more often. Eric and I (with major assistance from Susan Tong and Patrick Hoe) put up our little greenhouse in September of 2006 so that the phrags could have higher humidity, air movement, RO water, and better light. Orchids finally were moved in during the summer of 2007 - after the electricity, plumbing, fans, RO system, fogger, and various shade clothes were finally ready and tested. An unforeseen benefit is that it is much easier to water and fertilize - no more hauling everything to the sink and back. Twenty phrags now grow in the greenhouse, with three to four being in bloom at any one time, helped by the fact that many of them bloom for several months (the Jason Fisher started last December and is still in bloom). The hybrids are very hardy - the only phrag I've managed to kill was a besseae species.

So, with help from *Orchids*, from talking with POS members, from listening to the speakers at our meetings and our skill sessions, and from talking with vendors, I have progressed from phrag survival to full phrag enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who has so freely given help and information!

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Phrag. Sargent Eric  
Sharon Langlan



Stan. tigrina 'Hanging  
Gardens' J.M. Irvin



Den. bensoniae Ginette Sanchou



Masd. ophioglossa Mary



Mike and Gloria



Phal. Haur Jin Diamond J.M. Irvin



Phal. Golden Light 'Red' J.M. Irvin



Den. bracteosum Monica Irvin



Den. tapiniuse 'Marion' HCC/AOS The



Cym. Little Black Sambo  
'San Leandro'  
Evelyn Jones



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## Upcoming Events

**August 16 - Peninsula Orchid Society Greenhouse Bus Tour - cost \$40 per member or guest** - meet at San Mateo Garden Center (605 Parkside Way, San Mateo) at 8:00 AM to board the bus - **bus leaves at 8:30 AM SHARP**, approximate return time is 4 PM. We will visit Golden Gate Orchids and Hanging Gardens - with lunch, snacks and beverages included.

**Please park on the street, not in the Garden Center parking lot.** We have not rented the Garden Center for the day, and they may be having an event, such as a wedding, that they need the parking lot for.

**There will be two raffles!** One at the beginning of the trip for a \$50 gift certificate, good at either greenhouse. THE SECOND, during the trip back to San Mateo, we will be raffling off plants donated by our vendors and members. The raffles are included in the bus tour - no extra charge.

Don't forget to bring boxes to carry home your purchases.

Your **check**, payable to Peninsula Orchid Society, needs to be **mailed by August 10**, if you have not already paid, to:

Sue Rose

Treasurer, Peninsula Orchid Society

1007 Forrest Ct.

Palo Alto, CA 94301

At press time, 34 people had signed up (though not all had paid), with room for 47 people on the bus.

**Any questions, please contact Brett Francis (650-369-2329) or Jackie Becker (650-322-2270).**

**Now through October - Adagent Acres Going out of Business Sale** - Arnold Adams (a former president of the Peninsula Orchid Society) and Julius Sargent are shutting down their orchid greenhouses (Adagent Acres). The sale begins in August and continues through to October. Nothing over \$25 and most \$5, \$10 and \$15 range. Buy three and get one free (their choice). Contact info 707 575 4459. Adagent Acres, 2245 Floral Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

**September 13 - California Orchids Fall Sale** - 515 Aspen Rd. Bolinas - 9 AM - 4 PM. They'll have many wonderful species and hybrids, seedling to specimen sizes, in and out of flower. Great plants on our 'Fall Clearance' table. Cut flowers, supplies, sound advice.

Send an email to request their 'out of flower' plant list. This list includes species and hybrids that may not be out for sale on Sept 13th. If you give them 1 week's notice they can have them packed and ready for you when you come to the sale. Email them at [info@californiaorchids.com](mailto:info@californiaorchids.com) For more information, call (415) 868 - 0203.

**September 13-14 - Sacramento Orchid Forum Show**, - Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Jeff Tyler, 5520 Fruitridge Rd., Sacramento, CA 95820; (916) 455-4292.

**September 20 & 21 - SFOS OrchidFest Sale and Exhibition**, Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, 10AM - 5PM each day, Admission \$3 or \$2 for seniors and disabled.

**October 24 - POS Annual Auction.**

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The second part of the plant nutrition article, by Dr. Dave Neal, will run in the September issue of *The Sheath*.



Debra Atwood shows us her Zen



Lc. Mem Dorothy Oka 'Allendale'  
Susan Tong



Bulb. jacobsonii Carol Zoltowski



Pths. niveoglobula Mary Gerritsen



Pths. pterophora  
Anna Chai



Bulb. vaginatum Carol Zoltowski



Paph. Joyce Hasegawa  
Fred Cox



Mtssa. Dark Star 'Darth Vader'  
Chaunie Langland



Rene and Mary

**Native Orchids: Ron Coleman, Featured Speaker for December**

Did you know that there are many species of native orchids growing in California and elsewhere across the United States and Canada? In Carlyle Luer's book (Native Orchids of the United States and Canada, published in 1972), there are over 200 species described, and a number of new ones have been discovered since this publication. While a many of these are subtropical and do not grow north of Florida, there are over 100 species that occur only north of Florida. The so called slipper orchids are often the favorites of native orchid fanciers, but there are many other beautiful species.

In December, the Peninsula Orchid Society will have a real treat. Ron Coleman, author of the book Wild Orchids of California, and The Wild Orchids of Arizona and New Mexico will be our featured speaker. He has written over 30 additional orchid articles published in journals including Orchids, The Orchid Digest, Fremontia, Selbyana and Madrano. He also co-authored the orchid treatment of the Arizona Rare Plant Field Guide. He is currently working as editor for the orchid section of the planned revision to the Jepson Manual Flora of California. His talk is entitled Best of the West. In this talk Ron takes the audience on an imaginary trip from West Texas all the way through Alaska, covering New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington along the way. He shows photographs of our most beautiful wild orchids in each state, covering their blooming season, habitat, distribution, and aspects of the plant's history. If you love wildflowers and adventures in the wild, you will enjoy this talk! So save the date. The time around the holidays is always busy, so hopefully this advance notice will allow you to plan in advance. If you have one of Ron Coleman's books, think about bringing it and getting it autographed! December 19, 2008.



*Cypripedium californicum*, a native orchid species

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*Remember  
the meeting is the 4th Friday  
(August 22)  
not the last Friday!*

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