

# The Sheath

## November General Meeting

Date: November 28, 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

**The Friday after  
Thanksgiving!**

No Skill Session

**POS Elections**

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

Speaker: **Mary  
Gerritsen on  
Masdevallias**

Opportunity table by  
**Mary Gerritsen**

### Masdevallias: Ideal Orchids for the Bay Area

**Speaker: Mary Gerritsen**

Masdevallias are popular orchids with many orchid hobbyists in the Bay Area. Mary Gerritsen, our speaker for November, co-authored the book *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* (Timber Press) with fellow POS member and photographer, Ron Parsons.



Masd. coccinea  
Photo by Ron Parsons



Masd. setacea  
Photo by Ron Parsons

Mary's talk will focus on three related topics: (1) select recommended species and hybrids for the novice to expert grower in the San Francisco area; (2) cultural recommendations to grow these to perfection and; (3) pests, diseases and problems and how to deal with them.

The opportunity table, provided by Mary, will feature representatives of many of the recommended plants in her talk as well as a selection of other cool-intermediate growing orchids. There will also be a few copies of *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* available for purchase (and autographing).



Masd. deformis  
Photo by Ron Parsons

## **Annual Election of Peninsula Board Members**

The nominating committee, composed of Mike Rector, Brett Francis, and Susan Tong have proposed the following slate of officers for 2009:

President:	Ken Jacobsen
Vice President:	Mike Rector
Recording Secretary:	Rebecca Grubbs
Treasurer:	Trudy Hadler
CFO:	Sue Rose
Corresponding Secretary:	Judy Evans
Ways and Means:	Paul Reeve
Membership:	Chaunie Langland

Directors at Large (4 positions):

Mary Gerritsen  
Carol Zoltowski  
Randall Takemoto-Hambleton  
Brett Francis

The board operates as a team. Each position has defined responsibilities, but this does not mean that the board member has to meet these responsibilities alone. Not only do the other board members help each other, but there are members who do not wish to be on the board who are willing to take on significant parts of some of the board responsibilities. Do not be afraid to volunteer for a board position!!

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### **President's Corner**

We had a very successful auction last month and I just wanted to express my thanks to all of the volunteers who put in the extra effort to once again make this a great event. I also wanted to thank the membership for their participation-both as sellers and buyers-in this annual event.

In this month's newsletter we did something a little unusual. Chaunie was looking for some material for the newsletter, and I offered to write a short note on my recent orchid hunting trip to Western Australia, and to include some of the photographs I took while I was there. If you are interested in contributing an article to the newsletter please contact Chaunie.

Mary Gerritsen  
President, POS.

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## Member News

*A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Mike Rector, Judy Wilson, JoAnn Kemist, Kathi Ames, Chaunie Langland, Paul Ziegler, Virginia Jensen, Bethany Wofford, James T Stinger, Susan Grieger, Amber White, Brian White, Taik Yun.*

*Our Condolences to Patrick Hoe and Susan Tong on the passing of Patrick's sister.*

*Thank you auction volunteers!!*

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*Auctioneer:* Ken Jacobsen

*assisted by:* Fred Shull, Dan Newman, Japeth Ko

*Pickers:* Amy Chung Jacobsen, Japeth Ko

*Runners:* Mike Rector, Japeth Ko

*Accounts:* Carol Basey, Rene Biggs, Jocelyn Jamais, Su McMurtry, Mary Jensen, Sue Rose

*Refreshments:* Olga Ostrovsky and Rebecca Grubbs

*Shopping for Refreshments:* Rex Castell

*Cashiers:* Trudy Hadler and Katie Walden

*Auction Item Check-in:* Brett Francis, Barry Zimmerman, Carol Zoltowski, and Mary Gerritsen

*Silent Auction Donations and Basket Creation:* Rex Castell, Mike Rector, Sue Rose, Janet Rector, Jocelyn Jamais, and Mary Gerritsen

*Vendor Plant Donations:* Mary Gerritsen and Mike Rector

*Auction Web Page:* Fred Cox and Mary Gerritsen

*Auction Chairman:* Brett Francis

And Thank You to everyone who helped but did not receive recognition on this page!

## Upcoming Events

**November 22 & 23 - Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show** - 10 AM at SB Museum of Natural History, 2599 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara. <http://www.orchidsb.net/calendar.htm>

**December 6 & 7 - Casa de las Orquideas Open House** 9 AM to 4 PM For further information visit their website at [www.orquideas.com](http://www.orquideas.com) or contact them at [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com) or 858-755-7572.

**December 7 - Orchid Mania Winter Open House**, 11AM - 3PM, 717 Paris, San Francisco, CA 94112

**January 17 & 18 - POS Show - plant entry and judging January 16.**

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An Enormous **Thank You** to our members who donated items for the auction!

**Rex Castell, Sue Rose, Jocelyn Jamias,**

**Janet Rector, Su McMurtry, Ann Bailey Stuart,**

**Chaunie Langland, Annie and Mike Green, Japheth Ko,**

**Mary Gerritsen, Anna Chai, Carol Zoltowski,**

**Barry Zimmerman, Ted Wuerthner, Tom Parks,**

**Ron Parsons, Fred Shull, Nancy Francis**

*Thank you for making an extra effort to support our society in tough financial times.*

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## Western Australian Orchid Odyssey

Mary Gerritsen

The Western Australia (WA) Orchid Spectacular and Conference, held every 3 to 4 years, is known for its beautiful displays, orchid sales, and lectures. <http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/WAOS.htm>

This year the meeting (Sept 26-29, 2008), featured an impressive lineup of speakers: Henry Oakley of the UK (author of the recent book on Lycastes), Pepe Portilla of Ecuador (owner of Ecuagenera), Andrew Brown, Australia (author and expert on native Australian orchids), and Ron Parsons, San Francisco (photographer, lecturer and POS member) to name a few. Immediately following the show there was to be a four day orchid tour to see the terrestrial orchids of Western Australia (home to over 300 orchid species). This sounded like something not to be missed! Although I had been invited to speak I found the speakers lineup somewhat intimidating, but I figured that my co-author and friend Ron needed someone to make sure his slides were focused during his lecture. Therefore I came along as the “visual effects” coordinator!

Perth, known as the most remote city in the world, has a Mediterranean climate and vegetation quite similar to parts of California. Late September is early spring in WA, an opportune time to see wildflowers and terrestrial orchids. During the days of the Orchid show, we made several field trips to local areas. Two Perth metropolitan area nature parks, Wireless Hill and Kings Park, featured several species of “Spider Orchids” (*Caladenia*), including *Calda. flava*, *Calda. arenicola* and *Calda. discoidea* as well as kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthus manglesii*), and wild violet (*Hybanthus calycinus*). The day before the orchid tour, we went out with Iain McGregor (local orchid, bromeliad and aroid enthusiast) to the “wheatbelt”, an inland area about 80 miles north and east of Perth, where his parents had a working sheep farm. We went on several bush walks and found more species of *Caladenia*, donkey orchids (*Diuris laxiflora*), carnivorous sundew plants (*Drosera*), and several species of Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus*). We also saw kangaroos (they often come at dusk to graze on the crops), rainbow lorikeets, parrots, cockatoos, and even a blue tongued skink.

The next day we departed on the tour bus with 56 other orchid enthusiasts, led by Andrew Brown, resident Australian orchid author and expert. We visited numerous habitats south of Perth, along the coast and inland, eventually reaching Albany on the southern tip of WA. Each area featured different orchid species and vegetation. One of my favorites was Leeuwin National Park, a coastal area and habitat of *Calda. nivalis*. In four days we saw approximately 50 different species/ varieties of orchids, with an estimated count of 61 new species for the whole trip. Notable ones included *Calda. chapmanii*, *Calda. nana*, *Calda. cairnsiana*, *Calda. splendens*, *Calda. falcata*, *Diuris longifolia*, *Pyrorchis nigricans* (the fire orchid), *Pterostylis turfosa*, *Elythranthera emarginata* (enamel orchid) and the so ugly it was cute, King in his Carriage orchid *Drakea glyptodon*. Although we were constantly tromping through the bush, habitat of one of Australia’s most dangerous snakes, the black tiger snake (*Notechus ater*), fortunately we did not step on, nor even see, a single one. All too soon it was time to go home. Two days after my return I realized I had unknowingly brought along some unwanted hitchhikers. I found two enormous “kangaroo” ticks enjoying a meal of me!

If you love to see orchids in situ, WA is not to be missed. More photos from the trip are posted on my Picasa photo gallery:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/navbor123>

Color photos of the species mentioned above follow on the color inserts for the electronic version of the newsletter.

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*Caladenia flava*



*Caladenia arenicola*



*Caladenia discoidea*



*Anigozanthus manglesii*



*Hybanthus calycinus*



*Diuris laxiflora*



*Thysanotus*



Typical Western Australian  
Bush



Blue-tongued Skink



*Caladenia chapmanii*



*Caladenia nana*



*Caladenia cairnsiana*



*Caladenia splendens*



Leeuwin National Park



*Caladenia nivalis*



*Caladenia falcata*



*Diuris longifolia*



*Pyrochis nigricans*



*Pterostylis turfosa*



*Elythranthera emarginata*



*Drakea glyptodon*

### Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is free. E-mail your ad to [the\\_sh Heath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sh Heath_editor@earthlink.net) or mail to 878 Cashew Way, Fremont, CA 94536. Be sure to include your name and phone number. Ads must be received by the 5th of the month to be included that month's newsletter.

**For Sale:** Blue Flame Heater, Brand New. (cost ~200). 10000 BTU, Natural Gas Suitable for Greenhouse or Garage. \$50 Contact Mary Gerritsen 650 348 6492 or [meg570@comcast.net](mailto:meg570@comcast.net)

**For Sale:** Portable Swamp Cooler, used only once. (cost \$150). Suitable for cooling small greenhouse. \$75. Contact Mary Gerritsen 650 348 6492

**Free:** The tables I wish to give away are made of redwood, but they have become gray over the years. They are still quite sturdy. One is 3' H X 2' D X 5 1/2' L and the other one is 1' H X 2' D x 5 1/2' L. They will hold 8 or 9 med. large cymbidium pots each easily.

If you are interested, please call Nancy at 650-321-3302(H) or 650-224-9837(C) to arrange for pick-up.

**For Sale:** Get that special someone their very own Charlie's Greenhouse Low-Flow Water Valve System (#6044). Just imagine their delight during Hanukah or on Xmas morning, when they open that intriguing box and discover their very own valve assembly, including a manual shutoff valve, a filter, an electric solenoid valve, and a pressure gauge. How can they help but love you for this thoughtful gift? (Notice I said thoughtful, not romantic!) Brand new, never been used, bought for \$130, too lazy to return it, yours for only \$50. Contact Chaunie Langland at 510-494-8850 or e-mail at [the\\_sh Heath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sh Heath_editor@earthlink.net)

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### December Board Meeting

The December Board meeting will be held on Saturday the 6th at 11:00 A.M. at the home of Fred Shull, 490 Beverly Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. The board meetings are open to all members and we'd like to encourage you to attend. If you have any issue that you'd like brought to the board, but cannot attend, you can call any board member and they will present your issue for you. This will be a potluck, so please contact Mary Gerritsen if you are planning to attend.

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### Meeting Refreshments

**Earn 5 free strips 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!

## Much Appreciation

to our generous commercial and non-member auction donors:

Andy's Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Carter and Holmes - \$25 gift certificate  
 Cal Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Ecuagenera - assorted orchids  
 Gold Country Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Golden Gate Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Grocery Outlet - \$50 gift certificate  
 Hanging Gardens - assorted orchids  
 Jim Nybakken - cymbidiums  
 J & L Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Napa Valley Orchids - assorted orchids  
 Nurseryman's Exchange - assorted orchids  
 Orchid Mania - assorted orchids  
 Roger Reynolds - \$75 gift certificate  
 Stoney Point Ceramic Design - pottery  
 Wegman's Nursery - \$25 gift certificate  
 White Oak Orchids - orchid bark

### 2008 Board of Directors/Chairpersons

<i>President:</i> Mary Gerritsen 650-348-6492	<i>Vice President:</i> Mike Rector 650-366-3401
<i>Treasurer:</i> Sue Rose 650-322-9853	<i>Rec. Secretary:</i> Rebecca Grubbs 650-560-9037
<i>Corr. Secretary:</i> Jocelyn Jamias 650-678-6575	<i>Ways &amp; Means CP:</i> Brett Francis 650-369-2329
<i>Membership CP:</i> Su McMurtry 650-367-7515	<i>Director at Large:</i> Paul Reeve 650-366-3251
<i>Director at Large:</i> Ken Jacobsen 650-508-8308	<i>Librarian:</i> Rex Castell 650-576-4637
<i>Director at Large:</i> Fred Shull 510-569-9940	<i>AOS Rep:</i> Dennis Olivas 925-969-1246

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*Sheath Snail Mail Co-ordinator:* Susan Tong

*Web Editor:* Fred Cox 650-321-3542

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*Reminder:*  
*Please do not pay your dues until*  
*after Dec. 31*

*November meeting is on the day*  
*after Thanksgiving,*  
*December's meeting is the 3rd*  
*Friday (the week before Xmas)*

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