

# The Sheath

## February General Meeting

Date: February 26, 2010

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

*Time to pay dues - Thanks!*

No Skill Session

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

Round Table  
Discussions on  
**Indoor Growing,  
Outdoor Growing, and  
Setting up a Greenhouse**

Opportunity table by  
**The POS Board**

### Learning How to Grow Orchids in Your Environment

This month the focus for the Peninsula Orchid Society is entirely on YOUR environment. A survey of our members indicated that people are growing their orchids in three different environments: outside, on a windowsill or other indoor growing area, or in a greenhouse. This month's meeting will feature three round table discussions, led by POS members with experience in the above environments. Feel free to join the discussion group you are most interested in and ask questions and share your ideas and experience with fellow POS members.

#### Growing Orchids Indoors

**Discussion Leaders, Mike Drilling and Martha Skalak.**

Topics to be discussed: windowsills, wardian cases, lighting, humidity control, types of orchids that do well under these conditions.

#### Growing Orchids Outdoors

**Discussion Leader: Ken Jacobsen.**

Topics to be discussed: microhabitats, types of orchids that will do well outdoors and where in the bay area, special problems with pest control when growing outside, dealing with temperature extremes (heat and frost).

#### Setting up a Greenhouse

**Discussion Leader: Mary Gerritsen.**

Topics to be discussed: setting up a greenhouse, where and why, sources of equipment, considerations, maintaining temperature control, humidity control, pest control in a greenhouse. Differences between cool, intermediate and warm growing conditions, types of orchids that seem to really require a greenhouse to do well.

The opportunity table this month will feature an assortment of plants that will grow in the above environments donated by our speakers and POS board members.

*There will be no skill session this month.*

### **Thank You**

To all of the volunteers who made this show possible and to everyone who advertised the show to their friends and acquaintances - the show was a success because of your efforts! Most of our volunteers were members but we also had help from friends, family, and past members.

The following people volunteered their time at the show, some for all three days, some for one or more shifts over the weekend:

**Show Chairperson** - Sue Rose (also Raffle, Ribbon Clerks and Advertising/Publicity)

**Co-Chair** - Judy Evans (also Hospitality - such a small word for such a huge job)

**Show Chairs:** Mike Rector (Security, Set-up, and Take-down), Clint Evans (Set-up, Take-down, Kitchen Slave), C. Todd Kennedy (Judging), Gloria Bygdnes (Admissions), Chaunie Langland (Membership, Speakers), Rene Biggs (Vendor Sales, Plant Hotel), Mary Gerritsen (Trophies, Photos, Show Flyer), Ginette Sanchou (Advertising/Publicity), Gerardus Staal and Katie Walden (Plant Entry), Jackie Becker (Displays), Anna Chai, Amy Chung, and Ken Jacobsen (Member Plant Sales).

**Volunteers:** Deadra St.Clair, Mark Khoo, Daniel Williamson, Rex Castell, Carol Zoltowski, June Powell, Olga Ostrovsky, Fred Cox, Cordelia Wong, Linda Tripp, Rose Pfanenstiel, Nancy Hardesty, Tom Parks, Donna Horn, Del Beumer and Marlene Beumer and their daughter, Mary Vizzi, Kyle Filippuzzi, Paul Reeve, Diane Reeve, Janet Rector, Fred Shull, Trudy Hadler, Barry Zimmerman, Karen Bartholomew, Janusz Warszawski, Mangala Kishen, Nick Hughes, Martha Skalak, Evelyn Jones, Barbara Fornesi (Judy's sister), Ann Bailey, Monica Irvin, Jon-Michael Irvin, Paul Chim, Phyllis Chim, Mary Staal, Jerry Rodder, and Vicki Marchinko.

The above is probably not a complete list. Most of the people listed above (as well as those whose names I missed) did more than one job at the show. We were a great team!!

Sue and Judy did a fabulous job of organizing the show and we actually made some money in spite of the economy. Also, we had three planning meetings before the show, two at Sue's home and one at Judy and Clint's home. Each time we had delicious food and drink - it was a lot of fun to serve on the show committee. Thanks for doing such a great job Sue and Judy!!!

### **Thank You Speakers!**

Thank you to our speakers who donated their time and energy to share their knowledge and give great seminars during the show: Gerardus Staal (Plant Doctor and past president), Weegie Caughlan (past president), Mark Pendleton (vendor - Brookside), Tom Perlite (vendor - Golden Gate), Amy Chung (member), Dennis Olivas (past president, vendor - D&D Flowers, life of the party), and Tom Mudge (member).

### **Thank You Mary Gerritsen!**

Mary has provided much of the content of this issue of the newsletter concerning the show results. She provided the three pages (3-6) of lists of show results. Mary also took all of the photos of the winners of each division, made the trophies with her photos in them, and provided pages (7-11) with photo results. On page 10 Mary prepared the photos from Ron Parsons and Eric Hunt and wrote the text for the photos. Thanks Mary!!

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**2010 POS Show Photo Contest Winner is Drew Martinez  
for his photo of *Caucaea rhodosticta***



Congratulations Drew and welcome to Peninsula Orchid Society!

Drew receives a one year membership in POS, his winning photo will be featured on our website and Drew will receive an orchid. Drew retains all rights to his photograph.

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This was our first year to have a photo contest. Six show visitors entered photos and it was not easy to choose between them. The board members voted for their first three choices and I tallied up the points. Drew submitted two photos and they placed 1st and 2nd. Our third place photo was submitted by Robyn Peters.

While most of the photos included in *The Sheath* have been reduced in quality and size to keep the data size of the newsletter lower, the above photo is included in its original format.

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A heartfelt thanks to Carl Jukkola, Todd Kennedy, and Dan Newman for proofreading this edition. They caught many errors, especially on the plant names.

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**2010 Peninsula Orchid Show  
Division Winners**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Grower</b>
Best Cattleya	Novice	<i>Slc. Pink Charmer</i>	Zach and Pat Coney
Best Cattleya	Intermediate	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	Mary Gerritsen
Best Cattleya	Advanced	<i>Laelia Lucy Ingram</i>	Jerry Rodder
Best Cattleya	Open	<i>Bc. Makai Louise</i>	Napa Valley Orchids
Best Cymbidium	Novice	Not Awarded	
Best Cymbidium	Intermediate	<i>Cymbidium Sleeping Dawn</i>	Jackie Becker
Best Cymbidium	Advanced	<i>Cymbidium Peter Dawson</i> 'Grenadier' AM/AOS	Weegie Caughlan
Best Cymbidium	Open	<i>Cymbidium tracyanum</i> x <i>Cymbidium Bedrock</i>	Paul and Phyllis Chim
Best Dendrobium	Novice	<i>Dendrobium Green Elf</i>	Zach and Pat Coney
Best Dendrobium	Intermediate	<i>Dendrobium spectabile</i>	Sue Rose
Best Dendrobium	Advanced	<i>Cadetia quinqueloba</i>	Anna S. Chai
Best Dendrobium	Open	<i>Dendrobium spectabile</i>	Golden Gate Orchids
Best Odontoglossum Alliance	Novice	<i>Oncidium Twinkle 'Pinkie'</i>	Martha Skalak
Best Odontoglossum Alliance	Intermediate	<i>Oncidium Carnival Costume</i>	Joan Martin
Best Odontoglossum Alliance	Advanced	<i>Wilsonara Dianne Feinstein</i> 'San Francisco'	Japheth Ko
Best Odontoglossum Alliance	Open	<i>Odontoglossum nobile</i> 'Ice Cap'	Golden Gate Orchids

**2010 Peninsula Orchid Show  
Division Winners Continued**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Grower</b>
Best Paphiopedilum	Novice	Not awarded	
Best Paphiopedilum	Intermediate	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St. Swithin	Sue Rose
Best Paphiopedilum	Advanced	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Fanaticum 'Jae Hong'	Anna S. Chai
Best Paphiopedilum	Open	<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i>	Golden Gate Orchids
Best Phalaenopsis	Novice	Not Awarded	
Best Phalaenopsis	Intermediate	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>	Chaunie Langland
Best Phalaenopsis	Advanced	<i>Phalaenopsis aphrodite</i> subsp. <i>formosanum</i>	Greg Corrales
Best Phalaenopsis	Open	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>	Napa Valley Orchids
Vandaceous Alliance	Novice	<i>Darwinaria</i> Charm 'Blue Pacific'	Dan Williamson
Vandaceous Alliance	Intermediate	<i>Holcoglossum flavescens</i>	Mary Gerritsen
Vandaceous Alliance	Advanced	<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> 'Spot'	Greg Corrales
Vandaceous Alliance	Open	<i>Amesiella monticola</i>	Golden Gate Orchids
Best Pleurothallid Alliance	Novice	<i>Restrepia teaguei</i>	Zach and Pat Coney
Best Pleurothallid Alliance	Intermediate	<i>Masdevallia</i> Geneva Spots	Mary Gerritsen
Best Pleurothallid Alliance	Advanced	<i>Masdevallia</i> Tom Nasser 'Young Ik' AM/AOS	Anna S. Chai
Best Pleurothallid Alliance	Open	<i>Masdevallia</i> Mandarin Gold 'Orange Crush'	Golden Gate Orchids
Best Entry, Miscellaneous Division	Novice	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Mike Rector
Best Entry, Miscellaneous Division	Intermediate	<i>Dendrochilum</i> sp.	Mary Gerritsen
Best Entry, Miscellaneous Division	Advanced	<i>Lycaste</i> hybrid (unnamed)	Jerry Rodder
Best Entry, Miscellaneous Division	Open	<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Golden Gate Orchids

**2010 Peninsula Orchid Show  
Special Awards**

Award	Plant	Grower
Best Plant or Flower Grown Indoors	<i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle 'Pinkie'	Martha Skalak
Best First Bloom Seedling	<i>Paphiopedilum victoria-regina</i> subsp. <i>chamberlainianum</i>	Fred Cox
Best Specimen Plant	<i>Laelia</i> Lucy Ingram	Jerry Rodder

**Perpetual Trophies**

Award	Description	Plant	Grower
Barbara Todd Kennedy Trophy	Best Flower in Show	<i>Amesiella monticola</i>	Golden Gate Orchids
POS Perpetual Trophy	Judge's Choice	<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Golden Gate Orchids
Katherine Jason Trophy	Best Species	<i>Odontoglossum nobile</i> 'Ice Cap'	Golden Gate Orchids
Vallemar Gardens Trophy	Best Flower in Show	<i>Slc.</i> Yellow Doll hybrid	Mary Gerritsen
Lil Severin Trophy	Best Miniature Species	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	Mary Gerritsen
Clar Hancock Memorial Trophy	Best Culture for an Orchid Plant	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	Mary Gerritsen
Kay Rinaman Trophy	Best Cypripedium Alliance in Show	<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i>	Golden Gate Orchids

**Exhibit Awards**

Award	Definition	Winner
AOS Bronze Medal	Outstanding Orchid Exhibit	Golden Gate Orchids
ODC Bronze Show Medal	High Flower Quality	Not Awarded

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**2010 Peninsula Orchid Show  
AOS Awards*****Masdevallia* Memoria Augusto Silva 'Mahogany'  
AM 83**

(*Masd.* Urubamba x *Masd.* Marguerite),  
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

**Miltoniopsis Up Country Puna 'Keau Star'  
AM 83**

(*Milt.* Lynne Waihee x *Milt.* Stacy)  
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

***Vuykstekeara* Jerry Lawless 'Sheila'  
AM 86**

(*Vuyl.* Mem.Mary Kavanaugh x *Oda.* Jubilee Volunteer),  
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

***Wilsonara* Dianne Feinstein 'San Francisco'  
HCC 77**

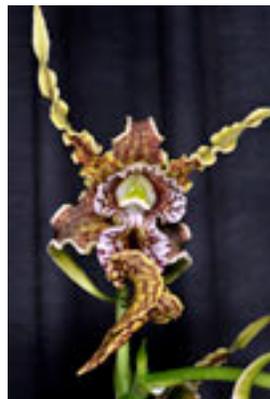
(*Oda.* Remembrance x *Odcdm.* Crowborough),  
Exhibited by Japheth Ko

***Masdevallia rosea***

(Theme of the Poster for the show. Photo by Ron Parsons)



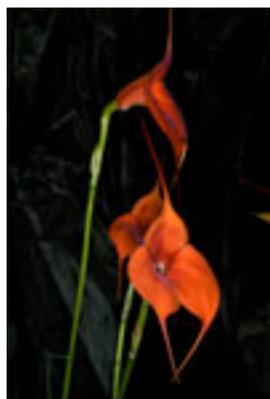
Photos of Division and Trophy Winners

Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Open
 <p data-bbox="185 743 409 802"><i>Slc. Pink Charmer</i> Zach and Pat Coney</p>	 <p data-bbox="506 743 711 802"><i>Dinema polybulbon</i> Mary Gerritsen</p>	 <p data-bbox="815 743 1019 802"><i>Laelia Lucy Ingram</i> Jerry Rodder</p>	 <p data-bbox="1123 743 1328 802"><i>Bc. Makai Louise</i> Napa Valley Orchids</p>
<p data-bbox="220 831 373 861">Not Awarded</p>	 <p data-bbox="506 1226 711 1314"><i>Cymbidium Sleeping Dawn</i> Jackie Becker</p>	 <p data-bbox="782 1226 1052 1314"><i>Cymbidium Peter Dawson 'Grenadier'</i> AM/AOS Weegie Caughlan</p>	 <p data-bbox="1107 1226 1360 1314"><i>Cymbidium tracyanum x Cymbidium Bedrock</i> Paul and Phyllis Chim</p>
 <p data-bbox="185 1738 409 1797"><i>Dendrobium Green Elf</i> Zach and Pat Coney</p>	 <p data-bbox="506 1738 711 1797"><i>Dendrobium spectabile</i> Sue Rose</p>	 <p data-bbox="815 1738 1019 1797"><i>Cadetia quinqueloba</i> Anna S. Chai</p>	 <p data-bbox="1107 1738 1360 1797"><i>Dendrobium spectabile</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>

Photos on this page courtesy of Mary Gerritsen.

Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Open
 <p data-bbox="164 667 433 724"><i>Oncidium Twinkle 'Pinkie'</i> Zach and Pat Coney</p>	 <p data-bbox="508 667 706 751"><i>Oncidium Carnival Costume</i> Joan Martin</p>	 <p data-bbox="781 667 1050 751"><i>Wilsonara Dianne Feinstein 'San Francisco'</i> Japheth Ko</p>	 <p data-bbox="1089 667 1359 724"><i>Oncidium nobile 'Ice Cap'</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>
<p data-bbox="224 783 370 814">Not Awarded</p>	 <p data-bbox="467 1180 747 1243"><i>Paphiopedilum St. Swithin</i> Sue Rose</p>	 <p data-bbox="776 1180 1055 1264"><i>Paphiopedilum Fanaticum 'Jae Hong' Grenadier'</i> Anna S. Chai</p>	 <p data-bbox="1089 1180 1369 1243"><i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>
<p data-bbox="224 1295 370 1327">Not Awarded</p>	 <p data-bbox="467 1692 747 1755"><i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i> Chaunie Langland</p>	 <p data-bbox="781 1692 1050 1776"><i>Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. formosanum</i> Greg Corrales</p>	 <p data-bbox="1089 1692 1369 1755"><i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i> Napa Valley Orchids</p>

Photos on this page courtesy of Mary Gerritsen.

Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Open
 <p><i>Darwinia Charm 'Blue Pacific'</i> Dan Williamson</p>	 <p><i>Holcoglossum flavescens</i> Mary Gerritsen</p>	 <p><i>Rhyncostylis gigantea 'Spot'</i> Greg Corrales</p>	 <p><i>Amesiella monticola</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>
 <p><i>Restrepia teaguei</i> Zach and Pat Coney</p>	 <p><i>Masdevallia Geneva Spots</i> Mary Gerritsen</p>	 <p><i>Masdevallia Tom Nasser 'Young Ik' AM/AOS</i> Anna S. Chai</p>	 <p><i>Masdevallia Mandarin Gold 'Orange Crush'</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>
 <p><i>Ludisa discolor</i> Mike Rector</p>	 <p><i>Dendrochilum sp.</i> Mary Gerritsen</p>	 <p><i>Lycaste hybrid</i> Jerry Rodder</p>	 <p><i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i> Golden Gate Orchids</p>

Photos on this page courtesy of Mary Gerritsen.

**Photos of Division and Trophy Winners**



*Oncidium Twinkle 'Pinkie'*  
Grown by Martha Skalak  
Best Plant Grown Without a Greenhouse  
Photo by Eric Hunt



*Odontoglossum nobile 'Ice Cap'*  
Grown by Golden Gate Orchids  
Best Species in Show  
Photo by Ron Parsons



*Slc. Yellow Doll hybrid*  
Best Flower in Show  
Grown by an Intermediate or Novice  
Grown by Mary Gerritsen  
Photo by Eric Hunt

**Shots from the show**



Dan Newman sets up the exhibit for Hanging Gardens



Golden Gate Orchids Award Winning Exhibit



Brookside Orchids Exhibit



Ken and Amy Jacobsen's table of beautiful orchids



Napa Valley Orchids Exhibit



Kyle shows off his winning orchids

*Photos on this page courtesy of Mary Gerritsen.*

**Member News**



**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Sydney Frankel, Helen Frevel, Rita Giles, Weegie Caughlan, Donna Horn, Tom Mudge, Terry Boomer, and Linda Tripp.**

About Member News - This area is for birthdays, births, orchid related trips, got a new job!, illnesses, and deaths. Please call me or send me an e-mail when you have good or not-so-good news to share.

### **Get to know your 2010 Board and officers!**

We started this off with a biography from Todd in the January newsletter. I am including a short bio from Todd this month just to keep every thing tidy.

**President C. Todd Kennedy** is a third-generation grower of orchids in the Bay Area. He served as Vice-President of POS in 2000 and President in 2001. He has chaired judging of POS Annual Show since 2005 and served as chair of American Orchid Society judging at San Francisco 2005-2008.

**Vice President Mary Gerritsen** became totally addicted to orchids about 13 years ago when I attended my first orchid show. It happened to be the 50th anniversary of the Peninsula Orchid Society, and the plants and show were so amazing, I wanted more. I had been growing orchids on and off since college, but mostly things like OSH cymbidium and the Trader Joes (or equivalent) Phalaenopsis no namei. I still remember the first POS meeting that I came to. I was handed a strip of opportunity tickets, won two orchids, and well, it was all over. For several years I attended every show I could, bought all kinds of orchids, covered my kitchen table, the bathroom, and every window in my house with them. But, with time (and money spent) comes wisdom (at least some).

Fast forward to today. Two greenhouses, three lath houses, orchids on my windowsills, my bathrooms, my office. Yep, I would say the orchid bug was still there, and then some. Today I grow lots of miniatures in my cool greenhouse, bulbophyllums, monopodials and dendrobiums in my intermediate house, and a few (well, about 40) cymbidiums here and there around my yard. I am trying hard to be more selective in what I buy, and to trim my collection down to the plants I really want to grow. I am afraid to count the number of orchids I have, and I am not sure I really want to know that number!

This is my third stint as the VP of the POS...you might ask why? I like this job. The VP is responsible for inviting the speakers and skill sessions for the year, and it is a great way to meet other people who love orchids, and to make lasting friendships that can take you to many places, near and far. Over the last few years I have had the chance to visit greenhouses all over California and parts of Australia and Asia, a great way to learn how the best growers do it! I have had the opportunity to meet orchid experts and explorers from all over the world, and many of them have been speakers at the POS. Some of the notable guest speakers we have had include, Leonid Averyanov on the slipper orchids of Vietnam, Lou Jost, Ivan Portilla, Eduardo Sanchez from Ecuador, Eric Christenson speaking on orchids of Peru, and Walter Teague on his orchid adventures, Marni Turkel on Orchids of Peru, Ron Parsons on Orchids of Australia, the US and Greece, and Ron Coleman on the Native orchids of the US. I have made it a mission to visit as many of the rich orchid habitats before they are gone forever, and thus far have been an orchid tourist in Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Australia and Borneo. I have many more locations I want to visit and orchids are a great excuse to do so. So if you want to learn more about orchids, and to meet people who know a lot about orchids, consider volunteering to be the next VP of the POS!

**Treasurer Trudy Hadler** has been growing orchids for over 30 years. As a member of four local societies, she has served on the boards of all four, from president to director and every position in between. Trudy is both an AOS and CSA judge.

Cymbidiums are the most prevalent orchids in Trudy's collection, but she has other cool growing genera. Most of her orchids are grown outside in her yard or on her porch. In her 'spare' time Trudy is a volunteer worker at Top Hat Orchids, a nursery in Richmond, where cymbidiums are the major product.

**Recording Secretary Rebecca Grubbs** is also a member of the Refreshments committee. She has been growing orchids for the past 5 years indoors and under a covered patio. Because she lives in Half Moon Bay, cool growing orchids have become her favorite. Rebecca has been a member of POS for 5 years and works for Mills High School in Millbrae.

**Corresponding Secretary Judy Evans** became interested in orchids about 10 years ago when Clint (her husband) brought home two large containers of cymbidiums from his father. She quickly took a class on repotting at Rod McLellan's and a week later had 15 pots (3 bulbs each) of cymbidiums. Over the years they slowly added to their collection while waiting for the repotted cymbidiums to flower. In the meantime they

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owned a children's clothing store for 22 years, which kept Judy very busy. They sold the store 3 years ago. On a Sunday in January, 3 years ago, they were driving down El Camino in Redwood City and spotted the sign for the POS show. They decided to check it out. They ran into an old friend from 4-H, Mike Rector, and he invited them to come to a meeting. They did, joined POS, and have been trying to learn as much as they can about orchids since then. Now that they are both retired this is something they enjoy doing together.

**Membership Chairperson Janusz Warszawski.** For Janusz, growing orchids, is probably the culmination of his general love of gardening. He grew up as a “city boy” without any opportunity for gardening. The opportunity presented itself when he got his own front and back yard to play with. He slowly learned Peninsula weather, microclimates and the fact that here one can grow flowers in every season. That naturally led to container gardening in order to move flowering plants into display position. Next came discovery of cymbidiums (at POS shows in Palo Alto Town and Country Village) as the “ideal plant” for container gardening, with long lasting flowers in winter –spring season. With cymbidiums came the identification of Orchids, and the possibility to move to a new level of gardening sophistication. All that was done as a weekend and evening relaxation hobby, after long days spent in the very intensive and dynamic disk drive industry in Silicon Valley. With the recent retirement, he has more time to dedicate to his hobbies and to join POS and GCCG, in order to improve his understanding of orchid culture. In winter he grows his indoor orchids under lights, on a large corner widow that can accommodate 12 trays with 70 orchids (with 10-12 blooming and displayed). During warmer seasons these orchids grow outdoors under a shade cloth. He also has close to 200 cymbidiums and other orchids that can grow outdoors year around. His favorite orchids are the ones that will bloom year after year under his growing conditions, preferably with showy color flowers and fragrant, if possible. At the same time he is always open to experimenting with new types and upgrading his collection.

**Ways and Means Chairperson Randall Takemoto-Hambleton** seems to be traveling.

**Past President Ken Jacobsen** was first introduced to orchids by his uncle in the 1960's and has been growing Cymbidiums himself for over 35 years. Over time, he has added the Odontoglossum alliance plants and several other genera. Since his wife Amy joined in his orchid addiction, they now also raise Cattleyas and Laelias, Lycastes, Encyclias, Vandas, and Masdevallias. Together they even have a few Disas! Their collection now numbers about 2700 Cymbidiums, and about another 2500 of the other genera.

Ken is a judge in the AOS judging program, and heads the CSA judging program. He has written many articles for the CSA Journal.

**Director at Large Daniel Williamson** As the son of a career diplomat, I grew up in Europe and on the East Coast. After attending college at Valparaiso University in Indiana, I worked in software development in Chicago for five years. I earned a Masters in International Business Studies from University of South Carolina, and was fortunate to spend eight months in Paris working mergers and acquisitions in a French bank and polishing my fluency in French and German. My future wife's medical training took us to Baltimore in 2000. I started growing orchids when I started taking care of my wife's languishing plants while she completed her residency. She had three strange scrawny plants among the ficus trees and geraniums. I was able to coax the first blooms from a pink Home Depot dendrobium after nearly a year.

That first taste of success led me to the greenhouses of Kensington Orchids, outside of Washington DC. I bought several naively chosen, much loved plants in the fall of 2002

as Kensington closed down. I found the Maryland Orchid Society in Baltimore shortly afterwards. With my wife's support, I transformed our basement in Baltimore into a light and humidity controlled attempt at an indoor greenhouse, and accumulated over 100 plants.

After eight years as a novice grower and exhibitor with the Maryland Orchid Society, we moved to Mountain View in the summer of 2008, unfortunately leaving most of my collection behind. I have been a stay at home dad taking care of my two kids, Aaron (4 ½) and Helen (1), and rebuilding my now small collection. Of the 12 plants I moved across the country, I kept two of the originals and two from Kensington. I grow about 40 plants, mostly Cattleya and Paphs, under lights in my dining room and I am still learning how to

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adjust my growing methods to the bright, dry conditions of our micro-climate. Almost all of my plants have sunburn. My life now revolves around growing orchids and children, not necessarily in that order, in our new California home.

**Director at Large Paul Reeve** comes from a family of botanists. He began to acquire orchids in Berkeley, Mostly from J Carbone and from Warren's Nursery in 1961. Only one of those plants survives, after others were lost variously to fire, freezes, ducks, drowning, etc over the years. He began to acquire more plants in the 1990s from Chick Ebarra of San Mateo, Rod McC, & the other usual sources. He joined POS at his wife's urging 9 or 10 years ago, when she was tired of his abusing his plants and those from his mother's little greenhouse. Now Paul grows too many plants in his house, too many around his house outdoors, and too many in his tiny greenhouse that is appended to his garage. Yet he continues to acquire more flasks and mature plants of the Americas, North, Central, and South! Go figure.

**Director at Large Sharon Langan** has been a member of the POS for 7 or 8 years now. She likes to have flowers in her work area and one day picked up a Phal., which seemed a bit expensive at the time, but was still blooming and beautiful 3 months later! Her interest piqued, she saw one of the signs for our annual show and stopped in, became enchanted, and joined the POS shortly thereafter. "Will never forget the wonder of my first bus trip to Scott Dallas' warren of greenhouses in South City - was totally hooked." She grows in her home and on a covered patio - particularly likes Phrags but also grows some angraecums, miltonias and other genera.

**Newsletter Editor Chaunie Langland** has been producing the newsletter since January 2008, when she took over from Rene Biggs. Rene did this job for 13 years! Chaunie came to the 1997 POS show at her mother-in-law's invitation and was instantly assimilated into the POS via the force of the members' cheerful personalities and enthusiasm for orchids. Her orchid collection hoovers around 200 plants. She now has a 6'x8' greenhouse, in her backyard in Fremont, as well as a modest Wardian case in her family room. The greenhouse is too small - much too small. Her main focus is Phragmipediums, and recently Neofinetias, Restrepias, and species Phalaenopsis. But, she is willing to try to grow almost anything. When she acquires new orchids she researches them immediately on the internet. She is currently looking for an actual paying job, but until one appears she loves invitations to visit your orchid collection so she can put some photos in the newsletter.

**Snail Mail Coordinator Jackie Becker:** I have been drawn to orchids for a long time but only recently have done something about it i.e., made time in my schedule to come to POS. I had joined POS years ago and remember a great and very helpful potting session by Weegie at her place. But I never made time to come to meetings and eventually dropped out. Also I was discouraged by the bad freeze that year that killed the few Cymbidiums I had acquired from a neighbor. But now I have more outdoor thermometers and I watch the weather reports more closely. I have orchids on a southeast facing porch (mostly Cymbidiums), in a large Southeast window (I bloomed a BLC in the full sun there but it got a bit of sunburn too), and in three north windows. Over my kitchen sink I have hanging plants on sticks or bark. In summer I can hold them under the faucet daily, less often in winter. My computer orchid file says I have 215 orchids but I know that 52 of those are deceased. I just have not learned how to transfer database files from my healthy plants file to my deceased plants file. One of our speakers once said "you have to have killed at least 1000 orchids..." I am working on it. Being in POS is really helping me to learn.

**Webmaster Fred Cox** is a long time software engineer who grew nothing until about 10 years ago, when Cordelia Wong left four hybrid Phals on his kitchen table. Remembering to water them every 1 to 4 weeks was enough to rebloom them, so he took more interest. His office near a north facing wall of glass became full of Phals and Paphs and a wonder to his coworkers. Shortly after Fred and Cordelia started going to the POS meetings, he volunteered to revive the stagnant website, and has been running it ever since, with much help from Cordelia.

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**Editor's Corner**

We had a successful show and I learned even more than usual this year. Because I was in charge of the seminars, I was able to attend a portion of each presentation.

**Saturday** started off with **Gerardus** holding a Plant Doctor session. I was having trouble with aphids on orchids in my house and asked Gerardus what to do. I was expecting the answer I got - use Bayer Rose and Flower spray. However, I learned that you should spray it on the leaves and that it is a systemic, as well as killing insects on contact. It was good to get a better understanding of how it works.

**Weegie** had a great handout and she discussed her potting mixes. Then, after repotting a cymbidium right in front of us, she grabbed the plant and pulled plant and pot up off the table to show that the plant was secure in it's pot. I had not seen this done before, though it was not new to some members of the audience, and I would not expect to pull that feat off with my own work.

**Amy** shared her secret potting mix for certain plants with us also, and explained how a dehumidifier can make all the difference in your unheated greenhouse during the winter months, along with removal of your shade cloth.

**Tom Perlite**, of **Golden Gate Orchids**, talked about how important it is to repot when the plant is actively growing, showed repotting in redwood mulch, bark mix, and sphagnum moss. An eye-opener for me was when he showed how the removal of the short protective leaves on Miltonias and Odontoglossums allow the roots to grow down into the potting mix instead of up.

**Sunday** started off with **Mark Pendleton**, from **Brookside Orchids**, demonstrating repotting cymbidiums. Mark discussed the value of our time and recommended that we consider just starting over with a new plant if we have let our cymbidiums reach the point of overcrowding where the backbulbs in the center have started to mound upwards, as repotting a plant like that can take several hours. Another option is to take your plants in to Brookside to have them repotted.

**Dennis (D&D Flowers)** gave a talk on general orchid culture and answered many questions from the audience. (Hmmm, seems like I missed most of Dennis's talk.)

**Tom Mudge** talked about growing orchids outside. He showed the new and popular anti-freezing cloth and discussed using small incandescent Christmas light strings under the cloth to help raise the temperature a degree or two in very cold weather. Don't use LED lights - the reason they use so little energy is because they do not convert electricity to heat, while incandescent bulbs actually convert most of the electricity they use to heat.

Sometimes I wonder, it is truly necessary that I explore every possible mistake that can be made when trying something new? This winter some of my orchids have been plagued with aphids after being brought into the house. I have resisted using insecticides, but this year the aphids were completely out of control. Mealy bugs have been relentless also.

About a year and a half ago I purchased some Rose & Flower spray while at a garden center. Having heard it recommended by Gerardus during one or more of his talks over the years, and also by other experts in our society, I bought it when I saw it, wanting to have it on hand in case of need.

I certainly did not want to bring any pests to the show! One of my entries had two aphids on it the Friday of the show (I brought my show plants in Thursday to start preparing them). And another one had a mealy bug! So, I hauled out the previously unused Rose & Flower and sprayed the flowers and leaves of all four plants going to the show. As it turned out, two of the orchids' flowers did not appreciate this treatment and degraded to very poor condition at the show. Not a stellar debut in the intermediate division! So, after hearing Gerardus talk at the show, I decided I should only have sprayed the leaves. After the show, I sprayed my other plants in the house, the ones that were actually heavily infested with aphids. What I noticed several days later is that the aphids seemed to have enjoyed their bath. They were robust and their communities were thriving. After all I had heard, I was very disappointed with the results. I took another look at the pesticide bottle. Well, finally I noticed the my bottle did not say **Bayer** on it! The rest of the name was the same, but I had bought the wrong brand and it was not the same at all. Off to the store again.



Admissions - Evelyn, June, and Gloria welcome our visitors



Lyle and Nick are ready to sell our popular raffle tickets



The member sales area was spectacular!



Rebecca at the membership table, accepting Sue's renewal



Judy in the kitchen - hoping when she opens her eyes it will all have been a dream



Clint - excellent kitchen slave - worked many jobs



Angelic had a lovely vendor booth for Orchid Designs



Tanya visits, from her booth next-door, with Mark Pendleton of Brookside



Susan H. of Orchids and Gardens helps customers and watched the game Sunday



Dan N. ready with his Hanging Gardens plants and good advice



Debra Atwood's Napa Valley Orchids booth had species phals!



Tom Perlite's Golden Gate Orchids was always crowded



Gerardus shared his knowledge and photos as our Orchid Doctor on Sat.



*Angraecum sesquipedale*  
Mary Gerritsen



*Den. cutbertsonii*  
Hanging Gardens



*Den. chrysopterum*  
Hanging Gardens



L. Lucy Ingram  
Obviously Jill & Jerry Rodders'



Ruthie Stryker had her popular Elusive Orchid boutique next to member sales



Amy (right) gave a very well received talk on plants that grow well in an unheated greenhouse



Mark Pendleton, Brookside Orchids, repotted Cymbidiums



Sue (middle) shows some friends around the show



*Cym.* Peter Dawson 'Grenadier' AM/AOS  
Weegie Caughlan



Dennis talked on general orchid culture and answered many burning questions



Tom Mudge shows freeze protection cloth to a full house

## Upcoming Events

**February 12-14 - Newport Harbor Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Westminster Mall, Orange County - Friday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-7PM, Sunday 11AM-6PM. Admission and parking free.

**February 26 - 28 - Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale** - Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Friday 10AM - 5PM, Saturday 9AM - 6PM, Sunday 10AM - 5PM. Admission \$12 in advance/\$14 at the door, seniors \$8 advance/\$10 door, 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult. For more information go to [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org) - information on Gala and on preview.

**February 27 - Sacramento Valley Cymbidium Society Show and Sale** - Shepard Garden & Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., McKinley Park in Midtown Sacramento - 9AM - 4PM - Admission and parking are FREE.

**March 12-14 - Santa Barbara International Orchid Show** - Earl Warren Showgrounds, Hwy. 101 and Las Positas Rd., Santa Barbara. 9AM-5PM all three days. Admission \$12, seniors (65) and students \$10, children 12 and under free with adult. [http://www.sborchidshow.com/show\\_overview.html](http://www.sborchidshow.com/show_overview.html) or (805) 962-6004.

**March 26-28 - Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose - FREE Admission. For information call (408) 229-2747.

**March 26-28 - San Diego County Orchid Society Show** - Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego. Friday 4PM-8PM, Saturday 9AM-6PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. Admission \$7, weekend pass \$10. Children under 12 free. Free parking. [www.sdorchids.com/](http://www.sdorchids.com/)

**March 27 & 28 - Central Coast Orchid Show & Sale** - South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-5PM. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. [www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org) or (805)929-5749.

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**Gala Benefit FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26** 6:30 TO 10:00 PM, Details on Reverse

COLLECTORS PREVIEW, FRIDAY *from* 9-10 AM (\$20, Tickets good through 5:00 Friday)

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**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - 28**

Hours: FRI. 10AM - 5PM, SAT. 9AM - 6PM, SUN. 10AM - 5PM

**FORT MASON CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO**



Admission \$12 online/\$14 at the door, Seniors (65+) \$8 online/\$10 at the door  
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TODAY'S HOME



Hello Orchid Enthusiasts;

I have written a new book on Bulbophyllums entitled: Bulbophyllums; The Incomplete Guide, From A to WHY?

It sells for \$44.95, (plus \$5 S&H to the US, \$8 to Canada)

AOS or ODC members get a 10% discount.

It also comes as a CD (the book in digital form) for \$19.95 (\$15 if you get them both).

Hardback, 250 pages, over 350 color photos and top quality paper mean this book will give you lots of information and last for years with heavy use, which I hope it will get.

It covers culture extensively (I just got my 31st Cultural Award in the Bulbo Alliance), species, new hybrids, growing from seed and clears up (I hope) some problems with identification in a few species.

It is written in a humorous manner that I have been told keeps the reader entertained and helps to retain the info more betterer.

Please send me your address and I will send it/them out to you promptly. Send me a check when you receive your package.

Bill Thoms

1605 Palace Court

Valrico, FL 33594

1-813-684-4101

[dukesthoms@verizon.net](mailto:dukesthoms@verizon.net)

## New meeting hospitality officers!

Monica and Jon-Michael Irvin have stepped forward and offered to join the meeting hospitality team. Olga will get her wish to step down from this position after 5 years of service. Rebecca Grubbs has agreed to continue as a member of this group to fill in when Monica and Jon-Michael are not available. It would be wonderful if another person or two would join the team to spread out the work.

**Thank you Monica and Jon-Michael for volunteering for this important post!**

### Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is free. E-mail your ad to [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sheath_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.

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*Web Editors:* Fred Cox & Cordy Wong

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Our membership year runs from February 1 through January 31 of the next year, regardless of the date on which you begin or renew your membership

*Remember  
Dues are due in February!*

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