

The Sheath

July General Meeting

Date: July 23, 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

**Show & Tell photos from the June meeting are
courtesy of Ken Jacobsen. Thanks Ken!**

**No Skill Session - doors
open at 7:00 PM**

7:30 PM Special AOS
judging/seminar

Enter plants for judging
by 7:15PM

Followed by
presentation of the
Show & Tell table

No Opportunity Table this
month

AOS Judging at POS

I'm sure we've all had the experience of going to an orchid show and seeing blue ribbons on the showiest plants, and then seeing a plant right next to the showy plant with no ribbon at all, but an AOS award. Well, we'll have the chance to learn about different types of judging and understand how this occurs.

Of course, orchid judges for the AOS look for something different when judging flowers than do the ribbon judges for a society show, and this month we'll be able to see AOS judging in action. There will be two or three AOS judging teams set up to judge and score plants, and the local AOS judging chairman, Maynard Michel, will explain the overall process. As judging starts, members will gather around the individual judging groups to see the process in detail.

Because AOS judging is supposed to be an anonymous process, there are a couple things we'll need to do for this meeting that are different than usual. First, please bring in plants for the show-and-tell table as usual, especially if you think the flowers are exceptional for that particular type of orchid, but please don't stop to tell any of the judges about your plant as you do this. If a judge knows that a particular

plant belongs to a specific person, they must excuse themselves from judging that plant.

The meeting will commence at 7:30 this month, and after announcements, we'll start the judging process immediately. Any plants where judging has been specifically requested will be judged – forms will be at the meeting for requesting judging. Also, the show-and-tell table will be viewed by the judges to see if there are additional plants they feel worthy of a closer look. Once judging is finished, we'll have a short break, introduce the awarded plants and the show-and-tell table.

If the judges award your plant, then that's wonderful. If you don't get an award, that doesn't mean your plant isn't exceptional, only that the judges are looking at attributes of a plant and flower which may be different than you see when you look at the flower. Especially with orchids, beauty is very much in the eye of the beholder.

We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to get plants AOS judged without having to go to San Francisco or Oakland. Hopefully, we'll all learn more about AOS judging, see some special plants, and have fun in the process!

No skill session or opportunity table this month.

Orchid Photography

by Paul Simon (including, of course, the photos)

I have always enjoyed taking photos of my orchids but was not quite satisfied with the close-ups of my small gems. Stopping down the lens for greater depth of field helped a little, but the pictures were not sharp all the way through.



Excellent focus on closest flowers, but far flowers are blurry.
(*Mystacidium capense*)

ending up at the rear. How many depends on your inclination, patience, etc. I have done it with as many as 7 and as few as 3 stacked images. The more used, the “finer” the result. It’s always a tradeoff but a little effort can make a big difference.

This is not a technique that can be done easily with a handheld camera in a greenhouse. Take the orchid into your house and put it in front of a background of some sort so that your furniture does not show behind the beautiful flower! Put the camera onto something solid so that it does not move during the series and vary the focus on the flower from front to rear as you take several exposures. Start with two or three to get the feeling of the process.

Stumbling through some digital photo discussions on the Web, I came across something called “focus stacking” and the photo results I saw were astounding. At first, it seemed I would need some sophisticated and expensive camera equipment but eventually found that removing it from the realm of science and engineering to that of the practical was easy and the results just about as good.

The idea is to take a series of pictures at different focus points, starting from the front of the flower and eventually



Excellent focus on furthest flowers, but closest flowers are blurry.

Orchid Photography (cont.)

I use a tripod and a diffusion light box and manually change focus with each exposure, but you can start by putting your camera onto a cardboard box, stack of plates, etc., fixing the focus at one point on the flower and slowly moving the flower toward or away from the camera. A table top tripod costs as little as \$15 and can clamp onto something more substantial.



Combining the digital images into one takes you to the next step, using your computer. Photoshop users already have the capability in the program. Add on programs are available for both Windows and Mac computers. The stacking and merging of the photos is pretty straightforward and not difficult at all.

For a good start, check HYPERLINK "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Focus_stacking" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Focus_stacking. You'll find a nice description of the technique and list of compatible software. Many are free and some have a free 30 day trial.

Here's one of my early trials. It's a photo of *Mystacidium capense*. The depth from front to back is about one inch and is a stack of seven photos. They were combined using the focus stacking software in Photoshop.





C. (Laelia) purpurata var. *carnea*
Fred Shull



C. purpurata var. *striata*
Fred Shull



C. tenebrosa 'Wakefield Copper Queen'
Fred Shull



C. purpurata var. *werkhauzeri* *striata*
Amy & Ken Jacobsen



C. purpurata var. *carnea*
Barry Zimmerman



C. purpurata
Barry Zimmerman



C. purpurata var. *flammea*
Jill and Jerry Rodder



C. purpurata var. *multiforme* x *venosa*
Jill and Jerry Rodder



Lc. Canhamiana 'Azure Sky'
Jill and Jerry Rodder



Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales 'Alpha Enchanters'
Fred Shull



Phrag. Kelly Nash
Sharon Langan

Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Cathrine Walden, Rebecca Grubbs, Jackie Becker, Anna Chai, Fe Araullo, Deadra St.Clair, Paul Chim, Raymond R. Ogburn, Jerry Rodder, Melvin Jones, Valerie Jones, Maureen Maher, Jonathan Riley, Trudy Hadler, and Nancy Wilson.

August Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will take place at Fresh Choice on El Camino in San Mateo - a very short drive from the Garden Center. The meeting begins at 5:00 PM - if you get to Fresh Choice before 5:00 you can get the early bird discount. Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.

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Max. sp.
Mary Gerritsen



Neo. falcata
Chaunie Langland



Angcm. didieri
Chaunie Langland



E. Green Hornet
Marlene Beumer



V. cristata
Paul Reeve



Masd. velifera
Mary Gerritsen



Pps. serpentilingua
C. Todd Kennedy



Aer. unidentified species
C. Todd Kennedy



Rst. majale
C. Todd Kennedy



Phrag. Court Jester
Mary Gerritsen



Masd. trochilus
Mary Gerritsen



Ascda. Princess Mikasa
Susan Tong



Masd. veitchiana
Trudy Hadler

Upcoming Events

July 17-18 D&D Orchids Open House & Sale - Half Moon Bay. 9AM-3PM. See details below.

August 7 Speaker's Day - Oddfellows Building, 1831 Howe Ave. at Alta Arden, Sacramento. 9AM-5PM. Admission \$15, AOS members \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Mail your check to Susan Wedegaertner, 1348 Kiernan Ave., Modesto Ca 95356. Send her your check and she'll mail you a ticket. They sold out last year, so don't delay!

August 7 Palomar Orchid Society Annual Auction - Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. Preview 11 AM, Auction begins at noon.

August 27 Paphiopedilum expert **Norito Hasegawa** will be our speaker! He will also supply a fabulous opportunity table! The editor intends to elbow you out of the way and buy all of the tickets herself. Thanks to Cordelia Wong and Fred Cox for suggesting Norito and Mary Gerritsen for arranging for him to join us.

D&D Flowers Summer Open House and Sale

will be on July 17 and 18, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Half Moon Bay. The greenhouse is not open to the public except for the open house events.

Really good deals... priced to sell. There is no list of plants available and divisions are sold on first come for serve. We will be having a \$7.00 sale on many cattleya, oncidium and cymbidium seedlings and back bulbs. We accept cash or checks but no credit cards.

We are located in Half Moon Bay 1/3 mile east of Main Street off Hwy 92.

Just east of Spanish Town on Hwy. 92 there is a house and firewood business. Turn onto the street between the house and firewood business and go over the bridge into the greenhouse complex. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you go beyond the large dinosaur statues in front of the house and Spanish Town and you are at Main Street, you've gone too far.

Mahalo!

Dennis

Speaker's Day!

Saturday August 7, 2010

9AM to 5PM

[Oddfellow's Building](#) - 1831 Howe Ave at Alta Arden
Sacramento, Ca. 95838

Featuring

Glen Decker - Piping Rock Orchids -
Phragmipedium kovachii and its hybrids

Ron McHatton - Director of Education for the American
Orchid Society
Orchid Biology for the General Grower - part 2

Marguerite Webb - J&L Orchids -
Good Things Come in Small Packages, miniature orchids,
especially for warmer climes

Break out sessions with culture talks

Silent Auction divisions of awarded plants - even FCC's!

Vendors are [Piping Rock Orchids](#) - legal Phrag kovachiis & hybrids!
[J&L Orchids](#) - species and orchids for home, lights & greenhouses
[Gold Country Orchids](#) minicatts that bloom 2-3 times a year
&

D&D Flowers - Dennis Olivas - Dennis will have whatever the others don't.

General admission - \$15.00
Sponsoring Societies (to CSNJ) or AOS
members - \$5.00 in advance, \$10 at the door.

Greenhouse Bus Tour is Happening!

Randall Takemoto-Hambleton has enough people signed up to get us a bus. A nice bus. There is still room if anyone else wants to go - bring your money no later than the meeting the evening before. **Please remember to park on the street - not in the parking lot. Thanks!**

When: Saturday, July 24 (the day after our July meeting)

Time: Be at the Garden Center by 8:00 to board the bus - which will pull out by 8:30 at the latest.

If you discover that morning that you won't be able to make it - please call Chaunie at (510) 364-2274 so we won't hang around waiting for you! (Sorry, no refunds.)

What: Bus tour to Marni Turkel's, California Carnivores, and Austin Creek Orchids. Lunch is included as well as a raffle on the trip home.

Cost: \$40 per person, payable in advance. There is still room for more people as the newsletter is being sent out. Call Randall at 408-390-4324 for more information or to confirm that there is space for you. Friends, family, and co-workers are welcome.

2010 Second Quarter AOS Awards

Here are the POS member award winners of the second quarter of 2010, reported by Kath Barrett:

April

Aerangis modesta 'Roshan', HCC 79, species, exhibited by Anna S. Chai

Ascda. Gail Noyes 'Full Moon', HCC 75, (Ascda. Fuchs Harvest Gold x *V. denisoniana*), exhibited by Japheth Ko

Centroglossa macroceres 'Kung Ran', CCM 82, species, exhibited by Anna S. Chai

Odontioda Golden Point 'Spotty', HCC 75, (Oda. Robert Dugger x Oda. Fort Point), exhibited by Japheth Ko

Lycaste schilleriana 'Apaulo', HCC 79, species, exhibited by White Oaks Orchids

May

Cattleya intermedia var. *orlata* 'Otto Haettinger', AM 82, species, exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen

Slc. unnamed hybrid 'Winston', HCC 78 (prov), (Lc. Koolau King x Slc. Circle of Life), exhibited by Ken and Amy Jacobsen

June

Masdevallia Golden Sun 'Winston' (Masd. Canary x Masd. Angel Tang), HCC 75, exhibited by Ken and Amy Jacobsen

To see the photos and descriptions of these and other awarded plants go to <http://www.aospacificcentral.org/index.html>. AOS judging occurs at least twice each month, once in Oakland and once in San Francisco, as well as at many orchid shows. For more information go to the website above, or talk to any of our AOS judges at our meetings - if you don't know who they are, just ask Todd, Mary, Rene, myself, etc. to point them out.



Paph. Robinianium 'Tanya Lam', AM/AOS
Tanya Lam



Rst. cordata
C. Todd Kennedy



Brs. Eternal Wind
Gloria Bygdnes



Dichaea glauca
Ginette Sanchou



Colm. Wildcat
Martha & Rich



Den. atrovioleaceum
Ginette Sanchou



Paph. Prime Child
Chaunie Langland



Aeranthus ramosa
In remembrance of Al Molakidis



Clctn. merrillianum
Linda Tripp



Den. Maiden Charlotte
Jackie Becker



Masd. Highland Blush x *infracta*
Martha Skalak & Rich Copeland



Prom. xanthina 'Gold Country'
Annie Green



Den. unicum
Jon-Michael Irvin



Angcm. magdalenae
Linda Tripp

Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is **free**. E-mail your ad to 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 1st of the month to be included that month's newsletter.

For Sale: For Sale: New, still in box, Charley's Greenhouse Low Flow Water Valve System. \$85. (Paid \$130, too lazy to return it.) Chaunie Langland (510) 494-8850.

Our **August meeting speaker** will be the well known Paphiopedilum fanatic and expert Norito Hasegawa. Norito will also be supplying the opportunity table!



Darlingtonia californica
aka cobra-lily, cobra-orchid and Pitcher Plant. These are seen at the Darlingtonia Wayside, 5 miles North of Florence, Oregon.



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San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

*Bring your best orchid for AOS
judging!*

*Arrive at Garden Center at 8:00 to
board the Greenhouse Tour Bus!*

PLEASE

Do NOT park in the parking lot

*Peninsula Orchid Society
The Sheath
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Fremont, CA 94536*