

*Orchids - Nature's Beauties*  
**Saturday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>,**



**10 am – 5 pm at the *Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City, CA***

Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors and Children 12 – 16 \$3. Children under 12 and accompanied by an adult are free.

# The Sheath

*January - no Meeting!*

**POS Annual Show is this month!**

Dates: **January 24 & 25**

Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Place: Community Activities Building,  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood  
City

Volunteers still needed - please help -  
please call the chair persons listed  
below

**Friday, January 23**

Bring your plants for  
entry in the show between  
**2:00 PM and 6:30 PM**

There is **no cost** to enter  
your plants! If you win  
an AOS or CSA award  
there is a nominal cost for  
the award - you can opt  
out when you enter.

Bring plants for sale between  
2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Plants  
require a Sales Tag &  
Inventory list. Strict limit of  
50 plants per member.

**Volunteers still needed for many jobs (see schedule on next page):**

Admissions - Gloria Bygdnes (650) 368-6475

Security and Vendor Sales - Mike Drilling (650) 692-8998

Membership - Janus Warszawski (650) 964-0560

Raffle – Olga Ostrovsky (650) 759-3816

Judging Clerks and Ribbon Judges – Japheth Ko (650) 947-8181

Member Sales – Paul and Diane Reeve (707) 747-5107 Fri & Sat

Barry Zimmerman (408) 724-5740 Sunday

Setup and Takedown – Mike Rector (650) 366-3401

Plant Entry – Neal Winslow (650) 322-3532

Displays – Donna Horn (650) 967-2513

Plant Hotel – Susan Tong & Patric Hoe (510) 449-4437

**HELP IS STILL NEEDED FOR THE SHOW!**

**Judging Clerks** are needed for Friday evening, starting at 6:45 PM

**Helpers** are needed for **take-down** at the end of the show - Sunday at 5:00 PM

**The additional chairmen are helping make this show a success; if your name is missing, please contact Paul or Diane Reeve to be acknowledged in the next newsletter:**

**Mike Drilling is Show Chairman (650) 692-8998**

Chaunie Langland for **Classes** (510) 494-8850 Judy Evans for **Hospitality** (650) 593-8625

Chaunie Langland also for **Publicity**. If you can help with this, including poster placement, pls. call.

We are counting on you - if you must cancel, please call as soon as possible

### **Friday, January 23**

Set-up – 11:00 am: Mike Rector 650-366-3401

Friday noon: Paul and Diane Reeve, could use help in setting up members' sales tables and room.

Show Entries: Contact Neal Winslow (650) 322-3532

Plant Display: Donna Horn (650) 967-2513

Judging Clerks – Japheth Ko (650) 947-8181

### **Saturday, January 24 and Sunday January 25**

Sign placement and retrieval - Mike Rector

### **Sunday, January 24**

Take-down - Mike Rector 650-366-3401; **more people are needed** - this usually takes about an hour, sometimes less.

**Volunteers - if you have an emergency and won't be showing up for your shift, please call your chairperson:** If you don't get an answer, please leave a message. Thanks!

*\* If you have signed up as a volunteer and been overlooked, please call the appropriate chairperson! If Chaunie is listed in your slot, please say so, she can do a different job!*

**Please review the Rules for Exhibitors printed in the December 2014 Sheath!**

**Non-volunteers:** Remember, if you are not working at the show, you need to pay to enter Saturday and Sunday, except to pick up your plants when the show ends.

Plants may be donated to POS to be sold in the member sales area at the show. Because we are now a 501c3 group, your donation is tax deductible!!

**Everyone, Please remember to pick up your show plants at 5:00 sharp on Sunday- tables start coming down at 5:05.**

**Plants may not be removed before 5:00 show closing time.**

Novices, start getting your plant(s) ready for the show today!

For help, review the information in the December *Sheath*

<http://penorchidsoc.org/newsletters/2014-12.pdf>

## **The Judging of Orchid Plants at the Peninsula Orchid Society's Show, 23 January 2015** **by C. Todd Kennedy**

Members of POS are welcome to take part in the judging of entries in the show for first, second and third place prizes, in what is known as Ribbon Judging. Judges, including POS members, who participated in the judging of plants for ribbons may remain and vote upon the plants proposed for trophies. Ribbon judging begins as soon as possible after 6:30 PM on Friday. You should let Japeth Ko know if you intend to take part in judging, so that we may assign you to an appropriate team - one not engaged in judging your plants!

Participation in ribbon judging is an instructive start in orchid appreciation. Judges of the American Orchid Society have been invited to form the nucleus of each team of judges, to which POS members are assigned. AOS judges generally make certain that all members of the team are engaged and informed in the principles of awarding ribbons.

But there are written standards besides. The show schedule expressly cites the standards of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. in their Handbook, at page 105. Because their Handbook is a little obscure for most of us, the pertinent part is set out below. By its terms it is applicable to cut flowers, as their shows are particularly of flower arrangements, but the standards are appropriate for potted specimens of orchids also.

While the Garden Clubs use a printed score sheet for judging purposes, POS dispenses with this, but does require use of the Handbook to establish the standard for ribbon judging:

**Container.** The pot itself counts for something: the plant must be staged in a container (not wobbling, on its side, busted or crusted) to show the plant at its best, and appropriate (not disproportionate to stature of plant within it): basketed monopodials in Victorian fashion or moss-covered terra cotta could be a plus, or a traditional style used in Cymbidiums or Neofinetia. Cache-pots are welcome, but must never distract from the plant itself.

**Plant Identification.** The card provided by the show committee shall be complete and correct. The exhibitor is responsible for entry in the proper class. Either fault may disqualify a plant from a blue ribbon and therefore a trophy, especially in the open and advanced classes. Judges might (but are not required to) be more lenient for novice exhibitors.

**Cultural Perfection.** The terminology is that the plant should be at "peak of perfection," that is, at a stage of maturity of bloom proper for display and keeping for the duration of the show, with a maximum of flowers open at time of judging. The quantity of flowers should be appropriate to the size of the plant; this allows maximum recognition for a plant notoriously difficult to grow or bloom where the show is held. Color of foliage should demonstrate a happy, healthy plant, of flowers should be pleasing and for maximum recognition, unusual, delicate or striking (as in pleasing contrast). Form of plant should be typical of the species or grex, not drawn or runty, to be staked or otherwise trained in a way flattering to the natural growth of the plant; form of flower should be full, balanced among its segments, and undamaged. Substance should be turgid, unless the flower is famously diaphanous. Texture of foliage should not betray dehydration, the flower, not suggest "over the hill." Size of plant and its flowers should be ideal for its type, preferably above-average for those generally seen; plant in due proportion to both flower and container, not a single flower on a huge plant, nor a huge flower on a struggling plant making its last supreme effort at reproduction. The stem length should be of due proportion to the rest of the plant, considering the natural habit of some species.

Condition and grooming make an important opportunity to make up for deficiencies in cultural perfection. The plant should be healthy, must be pest and disease free, without damage from transport. Grooming of foliage, removal of salts and dead sheathing leaves is desirable, trimmed foliage is acceptable - so long as it doesn't look sheared - with the edges straight not ragged. Garden Clubs forbid use of leaf polish for good

reason: it appears unnatural and distracts from the other aspects of the plant, and is ultimately unhealthy, clogging the stomata of the leaf. Judicious use of skim milk is not noticeable or objectionable. Staging of plants on the POS show bench is beyond the control of exhibitors but not of those on competitive tabletop exhibits. Those plants must be favorably presented: facing out, leveled and stable.

**Distinction.** This calls out the degree of superiority in the above qualities of plant and flower. Judges weigh the remarkable fine qualities of the exhibit and the degree of faults if any. Superiority of a plant (against others, which is what we are appraising) does not mean perfection.

From all this, should be apparent that the entry in its totality (pot, card, staging, flower, foliage, proportion...) is what is judged: never the flower or plant alone. In Britain, plant culture and flower quality are given equal 50% weight. The last Garden Clubs category, distinction, rules this out in America.

Anyone with passing exposure to the AOS score sheets for flower quality and for cultural merit will immediately recognize the Garden Clubs' standards as a combination of the two. This is no accident. The AOS and Garden Clubs judging standards were drawn up by the same person at the same time (Mrs William K. Dupont, in 1949).

The judging of orchids for AOS awards is much more difficult than ribbon judging: it requires constant reference to prior awards to determine the current standard for the orchid type. Ribbon judging on the other hand allows a judge to limit consideration to the closed universe of entries in the class. One needs only to put the entries in ordinal ranking. No matter whether or not any of the plants are of high quality or best condition, it should always be possible, using the above standards, to rank the entries.

Difficulty, if any there be, arises from the arbitrary determination of show classes, that might require nobile Dendrobiums to be considered against phalaenopsis Dendrobiums, or Barkerias against Brassavolas. The skill of judging (where our members are at disadvantage among the AOS judges) lies in being able to recognize each sort of orchid sui generis and, within that class so arbitrarily defined, which represents the best of its own type.



### Member News

*A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Carol Basey, Terry Boomer, Jennifer Bruckner, Christina Holloway, Jean Lee, Nick Hughes, Linda Locatelli, Larry Max, Rory Nakata, Angelic Nguyen, and Stella Roccaforte.*

### *2015 show vendors:*

*Botanica*   Brookside Orchids   Cal - Orchid   D & D Flowers  
 Ken and Amy Jacobsen   Napa Valley Orchids   *Orchid Design*  
 Orchids and Gardens   Paphiness   The Tiny Jungle  
*Contact Vendors to pre-order, please.*

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## Upcoming Events

**January 16- Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Annual Collectors' Auction** - San Mateo Garden Center (yes, the same place we have our meetings). The auction begins at 7:00 PM. Most plant divisions are one of a kind quality, unusual for weird markings, often last year's awarded plants, sensational or unusual colors, hard to get non-meristemated plants and the like. Continually, updated photos of the auction plants as well as the auction catalog, which will be published the week before the auction, may be seen on the GCCG website. <http://www.goldcoastcymbidiumgrowers.com> or to go directly to the photos:

<http://s489.photobucket.com/albums/rr255/goldcoastcymgrowers/GCCG%202015%20Auction/>

**January 23 - POS show plant entry and judging** - AOS judging, ribbon judging, Perpetual Trophies awarded.

**January 25 & 25 - Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City - 10 AM to 5 PM both days - orchid show, presentations and demonstrations, member sales area, and vendor sales area. Adult admission only \$5. Seniors, disabled, and children 12-16 admitted for \$3. Parking is free.

**February - Sonoma County Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple, Santa Rosa. Sat. - 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10AM - 4 PM. Admission \$7. For more information got to [www.sonomaorchids.com](http://www.sonomaorchids.com).

**February 19-22 - Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale** - Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Preview is Thursday, Feb 19 6:30 – 10:00; Show is Friday 10AM - 5PM, Saturday 9AM - 6PM, Sunday 10AM - 5PM. Admission could be \$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.

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2015 Peninsula Orchid Society  
Membership Application or Renewal

Mail to: Janusz Warszawski - Membership  
1227 Monte Verde Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024

Member Information (Please Print):

Name(s) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ BirthMonth \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ BirthMonth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note: We really need your current e-mail address to save postage and printing for *The Sheath*. Also, you will receive last minute information about orchid related events if we have your e-mail address. Your contact information is never sold!**  
**Thanks.**

E-mail: (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$22.00                       Additional Member same household \$10.00
- Senior (55 and over) \$16.00         Additional Member same household \$10.00
- Payments can be made by Paypal on POS website [penorchidsoc.org/membership.html](http://penorchidsoc.org/membership.html)

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Everyone is encouraged to renew before the end of February each year; it results in significantly less labor for the volunteers who handle membership duties.

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Membership Chair's area

Date paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. and amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Paypal date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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*Peninsula Orchid Society*  
*The Sheath*  
*Paul and Diane Reeve, Editors*  
*830 West L St.*  
*Benicia, CA 94510*