

# The Sheath

Peninsula Orchid Society      San Mateo, CA      Vol. 10 of 2015

The next meeting of The Peninsula Orchid Society is October 23, 2015 at the Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94543. Doors open at 7:00p.m.. The Meeting starts at 7:45

## Our featured speaker is Gary Meyer

Gary Meyer's interest in orchids began when he was a freshman in high school in Michigan. He had already replaced much of his dad's beloved lawn with hundreds of perennials and North American native plants, partly in an attempt (futile, unfortunately) to attract hummingbirds. Among this plant collection were several *Cypripedium* species, which ignited his curiosity about orchids from other parts of the globe. He found a photograph of *Masdevallia vietchiana* in a library book that rendered him helpless to resist the pull to Pleurothallids. Shortly thereafter, he laid eyes on a line drawing of *Dracula chimaera* in a J & L Orchids catalog, and has been enslaved by Draculas ever since.

Gary started growing Draculas in his parents' basement in 1990, with some degree of success. However, college, then medical school, and finally graduate school became unavoidable distractions for him. By the time he finished his Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2003, he thought he had managed to completely kick the orchid addiction.

In February 2003, Gary moved from Ann Arbor, MI to San Francisco, CA, and within two weeks of his arrival, found himself face to face with a pure yellow *Dracula gorgona xanthina* (owned by John Leathers) at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. The addiction was immediately revived, stronger than ever. Eight years later, Gary now has two overcrowded greenhouses in his backyard in San Francisco and several hundred *Dracula* plants (along with a reasonable dose of *Masdevallias*, *Lepanthes*, *Cyrtorchilums*, and *Anguloas*).

Gary has been traveling to Colombia and Ecuador once or twice a year since 2005 to observe Draculas in the wild and visit collections of South American *Dracula* growers. He has also been putting his science background to work, studying the molecular taxonomy of the genus with Ken Cameron, Ph.D., director of the herbarium at the University of Wisconsin, and describing new species in conjunction with his South American colleagues.

By day, Gary is a Research Manager at IntrinsicQ, LLC, where he tracks the oncology pharmaceutical industry. He is currently President of the Pleurothallid Alliance, owner of Colombian Orchid Imports, which imports orchid species from Colombia for sale in the United States, and runs the marketing and sales for Hawk Hill Orchids of Pacifica, California.

Gary's talk, *Gods and Monsters*, will be something of a deviation from the typical orchid talk. Since Halloween is right around the corner, this talk will delve into the mythology behind the monstrous and spooky names used for *Dracula* species.

## **Gary will supply the Opportunity Table**

**THE SKILL SESSION:** Held in the Rose Room at 7:00p.m. This month's session this will be Trudy Hadler explaining staking Cymbidiums.

### **\*\*\*AUCTION SUMMARY - THANK YOU EVERYONE!\*\*\***

We had 20 providers of which 16 included donations to the POS. There were 252 items auctioned off of those 108 were donated. There were 44 bidders participating of which 38 actually bought plants. Total sales were \$4892.22. \$414.22 is sales tax, the providers receive \$2174.25 leaving the POS with \$2303.75. We don't have the expenses so we don't know what our net profit is. There were only a couple errors that came out on our end.

Compared to last year we made \$900 more, which is a good thing. Last year we only had 18 providers and we auctioned off 199 items.

**Thanks to all the volunteers!** Dennis Olivas, Mike Drilling, Tom Mudge- AUCTIONEERS! Carol Basey, Rene Biggs and Celine Dion on the computers. Anne Abramson chalk board. Judy Evans, Clint Evans, Trudy Hadler, and Carol Zoltowski plant check-in. Susan Tong, Patrick Hoe and Pauline Wong in hospitality. Janusz Warszawski, Olga Ostrovsky and Mr. Robb - plant runners. Sharon Langan and Trudy Hadler cashiers. Chaunie Langland and George Spangler where needed.

### **Making Sense of Orchid Names by Chaunie Langland**

Most orchids are referred to by their scientific names. Those names may have Latin words and/or Greek words. Understanding the Latin and Greek terms can make it easier to remember some of those pesky names. I am going to try to send Diane Reeve, the newsletter editor, a few terms each month. No need to rush into this! However, if you would like to learn at a faster pace, I recommend that you purchase the source I am using - Botanical Latin by William T. Stearn.

**atro** - deep shades of color are usually indicated by adding "atro-" to the front of the color

(photo) **Dendrobium atrovioleaceum** (courtesy of Eric Hunt) Here you see the deep violet markings that give this orchid it's name.

**atropurpurea** dark purple

**atroviolaceus** - dark violet

**atrovirens, atroviridis** - dark green

**per** - indicates the deepness of the color

**perviridis** - deep green

**Distichus** - distichous - arranged in two opposite rows



**Angraecum Disticum** (courtesy of Chaunie Langland),



Here the leaves are arranged in two distinct rows along one axis

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!** We salute you, whether you celebrate or not! Susan Ai, Robert Anderson Jr., Carol Armendariz, James Baxter, Betty Chinn, Eduardo Finones, Meg Finones, Alek Koss, Richard Mangan, Kathryn Parker, David Shen George Spangler, Abraham Chih Wang, Helena Wee, Barry Zimmerman

**SPECIAL THANKS TO SHARON LANGON FOR THE FINE PHOTOS THIS MONTH!** (maybe our new "Official" photographer??)

**POS - COMING ATTRACTIONS - Save these Dates**

**November 27<sup>th</sup> - Annual Business Meeting - (We vote for next year's Board members)**  
**Speaker Pierre Pujol - on Deflasking.**

**Proposed Slate for next Year's Board members**

**President - Tom Mudge**  
**Vice President - Neal Winslow**  
**Recording Secretary - George Spangler**  
**Corresponding Secretary - Judy Evans**  
**Membership - Janusz Warszawski**  
**Treasurer - Sharon Langan**  
**Ways & Means - Roey Shaviv**  
**Director at Large - Susan Tong**  
**Director at Large - Anne Abramson**  
**Director at Large - Eric Levenson**  
**Past President - Mike Drilling (this position is an automatic officer on the board).**

**December 18th - Potluck & Orchid Bingo**

## **UPCOMING SHOWS, SALES AND EVENTS**

**Santa Barbara Orchid Estate** - Fall Open House - November 7-8. Saturday 8am-5pm, Sunday 9am - 4pm. 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. (805)967-1284

**American Orchid Society Fall Meeting & Show November 11-15.** At the Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa in Reno. (Mike sent the info.)

OR

**Head for the beach!** There are two orchid shows and sales, one in Soquel and one in Carmel on the Same Date November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY Fall Orchid Festival - November 13-14 9am - 4pm.**



**November 13, 14, 2015, 9 AM - 4 PM**  
**Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula**  
**4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923**

**The Carmel Orchid Society is having their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Orchid Festival on November 13, 14 at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923.**

**Our Festival will have a beautiful display of members' orchids, members' sales, nationally known orchid vendors, a garden-centric Silent Auction, orchid culture and potting demonstrations. Admission and parking are free. Please join us for a wonderful day. See our website at [www.carmelorchidsociety.org](http://www.carmelorchidsociety.org) or call (831) 625-1565.**

**Santa Cruz Show and Sale at Soquel High School, 401 Soquel - San Jose Rd. November 15 7 15, 10am to 4pm. FREE ADMISSION. Hundreds of orchids for sale demonstrations, AOS Judging. Plant entry for AOS judging only will be between 8:30 and 9:00am.**

**\*\*\*AUCTION ACTION\*\*\***



**Michael, Judy, Carole, and Clint at check-in**



**Annie and Michael waiting,,,**



**Dennis warming up to start the bidding**



**Waiting for the action.**





**Tom Mudge, Auctioneer! 100 Watt smile!**



**Chaunie & Anne at the chalkboard**



**Dennis - Plant - BID!**



**Amy taking care of refills**



**Tom describing the next plant.**



**Mike takes his turn.**



**Serious Business**



**Is that one on my list???**



**These ladies handle the money!**



**Olga waiting to run another plant.**



**The Party's Over!**

## **Current Officers**

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