



The Sheath

**General Meeting
March 24, 2017**

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

Speaker this Month:

Scott Barrie, Co-owner of Barrita Orchids (Australia)

Barrita Orchids is a commercial wholesale orchid growing business supplying quality potted plants to a few large stores throughout New South Wales, as well as flowers and plants to markets and florists Australia-wide.

The aim of Barrita is to produce high quality cut flowers (mainly cymbidiums), and potted orchid plants, and to develop new varieties. They have a well established reputation for their cymbidiums, with almost fifty years of operation. In the last decade Barrita has established a world class breeding program for varicosum Oncidiums, gaining many awards and taking this style of Oncidinae to new heights.

In addition to the complex breeding programs of cymbidiums and oncidiums, Barrita has made significant advancements in the commercialization of Sarcochilus. This program has produced outstanding results in the refining of the genus, and they are one of the top sarcochilus hybridizers.

Co-owners Scott and Geoff Barrie are Australian Orchid Council Judges, and Scott now travels Australia-wide giving presentations which aim to bring the experience of modern commercial growing to the amateur orchid enthusiast in a relaxed and enjoyable way. You can visit their web page and see some of the Sarcochilus crosses they are making available in flasks this year: <http://www.barritaorchids.com/usa-flask-list.htm>!. You can also view their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BarritaOrchidsKulnura/>



These are a few of the beautiful Barrita Sarcs

There will not be a skill session this month

Doors are open at 7:00 Meeting plus Show and Tell Table at 7:30PM followed by:

Speaker: Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids (Australia)

Topic: Sarcochilus

Opportunity Table by Barrita Orchids

Member News



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY To: Frank Blomquist, Nancy Francis, Ritsuko Furuya, Diana Gross, C. Todd Kennedy, Margery Mayer, Sue McMurtry, Javier Perez-Sanchez, Paul Reeve, Roey Shaviv, Isis Trenchard, and Carol Zoltowski

AND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Lisa Pace

Membership renewals

Annual membership fees are now due in January; If you didn't renew yet, they can be paid by check or cash at the meeting or on the website using Paypal at: <http://penorchidsoc.org/membership.html>. The membership form is attached to this newsletter.

Refreshments:

Thanks in advance to all those planning to bring in refreshments for the March meeting – we really appreciate those goodies. Be sure to pick up a free strip of raffle tickets from Eric Levenson.

Editor's Corner:

This month we're fortunate to have two articles contributed by members of POS (see next page):

Neal Winslow sent me an article from Dick Stone, a past president of POS, and I thought it would prove interesting for a lot of our members. Dick recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Congratulations and happy birthday Dick! And thank you much for the contribution.

The second is from Chaunie Langland. I've always liked to hear from members about how they've grown a plant I really liked, or that has just won an award. Especially interested in how they've grown it in our local area/climate. Since Chaunie's lycaste took best-in-show at our January event, I asked her if she would do a write up for us and she did her usual terrific job - which should prove helpful to anyone interested in this genus.

Help Wanted!!

Our Vice President, Neal Winslow, is departing for a new, out-of-state home, and we are looking for his replacement. This is your chance to pick, and meet with our speakers, and to decide on our skill sessions. Neal has already lined up April's speaker (and possibly May) so you will have time to work into the position. Neal has done an outstanding job for our society and we can't thank him enough for the work he's done for the POS. We wish you the very best in your new home, Neal!

A LITTLE ENVIRONMENT

By Richard Stone

An urge to see orchids in the wild and visit a famous orchid garden took Isabelle and I to Costa Rica in 1975. In a rented car and with a vague map, we roamed the back country, drove up and partially over the Interamerican Highway, and at a very high elevation came to a cloud forest I named the "Ghost Forest". Those tall trees left standing had limbs literally dripping with orchids. (Fig, 1)



Fig 1

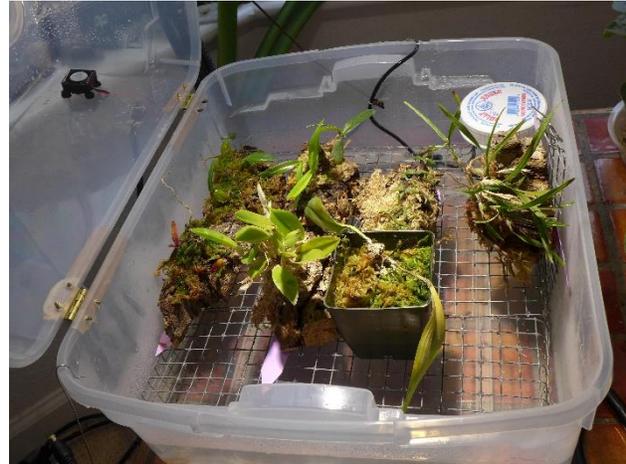


Fig 2

The foggy air completely obscured trees in the distance. It was not necessary to do any climbing; broken branches on the ground made for easy picking and I found two miniature orchids which bloomed well back home at sea level

Earlier this year I got a ride to a local orchid society meeting to hear a talk on miniature orchids (Not over 6 inches high, there are thousands of these). A few months later, it occurred to me how to create a miniature orchid cloud forest. A couple of plastic storage cases, one inverted on top of the other, could maintain a humid environment that with proper amenities could grow miniature orchids. The first amenity was hinges between them to allow opening the upper case as well as keeping it in alignment. For best culture it is necessary to open and close the case to allow drying after watering, thus duplicating a natural environment. (Fig 2).

In this figure, the initial plant group is sitting above water on a second amenity a mesh base . An ultrasonic fogger- a vital third amenity- requires a 1-1/2 inch water depth in the lower section, and is set to operate only when the cases are closed. The water layer maintains humidity when the fogger is off. The fogger is in the corner below the jar cap. The cap diverts the upward jet of water from the fogger which accompanies its operation.

The fourth amenity is a tiny computer fan located in the upper left corner, running 24/7 which moves the fog around, drenching leaves and, as in nature, circulates the air.

The fifth amenity, light, is supplied by LED flood and grow lights (Fig.3)A clear acrylic panel replaces the cloudy plastic the upper case. These are on 16 hours a day whether the cases are open or closed.

The sixth amenity an electric actuator which enables a consistent cycle of opening and closing the cases. It is installed on a specially designed bracket secured to the lower case.(Fig. 4)



Fig 3

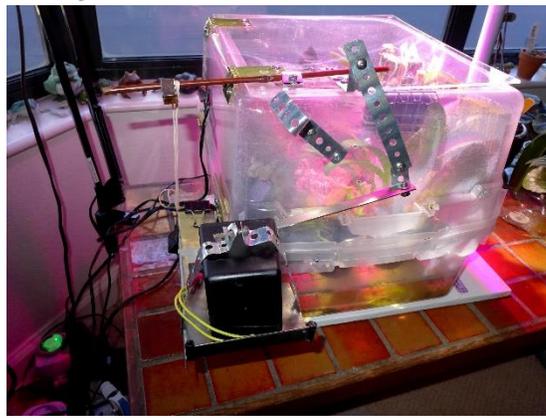


Fig 4

The actuator simply rotates an arm 90 degrees or less when power is on. Off, it rotates back with a spring return. The heavy upper case needed an awkward counter balance to open, initiating a design change. The clear plastic lid on the upper case was detached. With newly attached hinges it was linked to the actuator. A simple rubber band counter balance enabled reliable opening. The cases remain pinned together. The lid operating cycle is still being studied.

The project began in August. With gifts from friends and ten purchased, the forest now contains 20 plants ,(Fig 5).



Fig 5

Two plants with exquisite flowers have bloomed since being placed in their cloud .(Figs.6 & 7). A blooming orchid is a happy orchid. The forest must be doing something right.



Fig 6



Fig 7

Growing Lycastes by Chaunie Langland

Several years ago Lycaste hybrids caught my attention. Lauris and Jim Rose (Cal-Orchid) had a fabulous wide petaled deep red Lycaste in their display. Then Sharon Langan started bringing nice ones in for our Show & Tell table. I decided to give them a try.

The first ones I bought were from Ecuagenera in 2013. The red ones were not the color of the Rose's red ones, but I got a very nice pink and an extremely nice white with a yellow lip. The white one is now known as Lycaste Nathalie Cely 'Samantha Weeks', AM/AOS (Sunray x guatemalensis). It is such a hardy flower that I was able to take it to student judges training, AOS judging and our Show & Tell table without getting bruising on the flowers. It had eight flowers that year.

I also learned from Amy Jacobsen that many of the really nice Lycastes were being imported from Japan and that Lauris and Jim were the go-to source. I have bought quite a few of those crosses (unbloomed seedlings) in the last three years, and expect to see most of them bloom this year. I still hope to have one of the really red ones emerge from that group. And I do have a red one that I got in trade for a piece of my awarded one, it is in bud and maybe will be on our Show & Tell table this month.

I took Lycaste Shonan Melody (Sunray x Shoalhaven) to our show this year. The flowers were not AOS award quality - the petals and sepals had an unfortunate tendency to curl back instead of staying flat. None-the-less, it was putting on an impressive display with eight white flowers open at once and was awarded Best in Show.

Now a little about how I grow my lycastes. I still have a lot to figure out, but I grow them in two places - on the shadier side of my heated greenhouse and on my front porch. The ones in the greenhouse have a tendency to attract scale. Outside it is not an issue. The front porch is in a corner in our courtyard and has a small roof. The Lycastes there grow much cooler than in the greenhouse and get only the light reflected off the walls of the courtyard. The courtyard stays about 10 degrees warmer than the rest of our yard.

The porch is where the two eight flowered plants have been grown, but I don't know if it is a better spot than the greenhouse or if the plants had simply matured enough to put on a grand display. The plants in the greenhouse get RO water, the ones on the porch get very hard well water. Before the buds open, the plants come into the house to avoid getting botrytis spots on the flowers.

Lycastes have large ribbed leaves. Often when they are shown the leaves have to be tied out of the way. But, if you grow them outside and water with hard water that won't be an issue. The leaves will look so bad that you will need to trim most of them away to show the plant. This is not nearly as big a deal as if you were trimming your Phalaenopsis leaves. Lycastes are deciduous so those trimmed leaves are going to disappear eventually on their own. Being deciduous should give you a clue here - to cut way back on the watering during winter.

I grow mine in plastic pots in a mixture of small bark, perlite, and charcoal. In the summer I keep them well watered. (Sorry for the pun!) Also, I move most or all of them out of the greenhouse into a shady area in the back yard for the summer.

The species are pretty fabulous also. I can recommend Andy's Orchids for species, Cal-Orchid for Japanese hybrids. Keep in mind that Lycastes are expensive compared to many other orchids you can buy. Expect prices to start around \$35 for an unbloomed seedling. They are well worth growing though.



Best in Show: Lycaste Shonan Melody



Lycaste Nathalie Cely 'Samantha Weeks', AM/AOS

The POS Board of Directors

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Website:	http://penorchidsoc.org	
Facebook:	Peninsula Orchid Society of San Mateo	

Interested in a specific topic or speaker or skill session?
 POS members are welcome to make suggestions for speakers or topics for our meetings, and also for our skill sessions before the meetings. Please send your suggestions to Neal Winslow nwinslow4@comcast.net

Pictures from the February Meeting Show and Tell Table. *Thanks to all of you who brought plants in even though the San Francisco show was going on – we had a super table, as usual!*



Odm. From Jeff Trimble

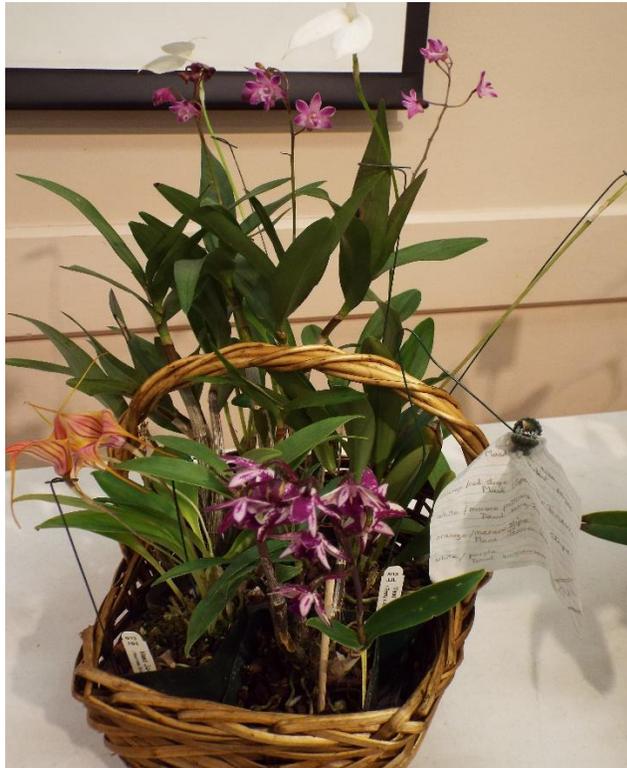


Two *Laelia anceps* brought in by Janusz Warszawski





C. hybrid Edith North 'Danny Adams
brought in by Janusz



Basket brought in by Trudy included
dendrobiums and masdevallias



Pleurothallis tranecatass brought in by
Asuka



Mas MacInnes Golden Heart 'Yellow
Snow' brought in by Asuka



Prosthecea vitellina – Eric Levenson



Onc. Golden Sunset x Tolumnia Elf Gem – Eric Levenson



Den. Senile – Chaunie Langland



Odcdm. Tiger Barb 'Plenty'



C. Frosty Pink – Chaunie Langland



Epi hybrid – Chaunie Langland



Odm.



Cym. From Opportunity Table (Weegie)

**2017 Peninsula Orchid Society
Membership Application or Renewal**

Mail to: Janusz Warszawski – POS 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 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 shared.

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

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Everyone is encouraged to renew before the end of February each year.



Upcoming Events:

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show: March 17-19, 2017

At Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA

The 42nd Annual Cymbidium Congress Saturday March 18, 2017 Lectures, Auction, Banquet
Adams Elementary School Auditorium 2701 Las Positas Road Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Garden Plant Exchange Saturday, March 25th from noon to 4pm

Our next FREE Plant Exchange is Saturday, March 25th from noon to 4pm at 4500 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. Join us for this fun free semi-annual event where gardeners, landscapers, urban farmers, and beginners come to exchange plants, tools, equipment and information about ways to make our urban environment more sustainable, aesthetic, and healthy. The event will feature a live band, food trucks, gardening demos, advice from The Alameda County Master Gardeners, raffle prizes, and more. This year's events will have additional special activities planned as part of our 10 Year Anniversary!

California Orchids Spring Sale! Saturday, March 25th, 9am

We will have a great selection of Orchid species and hybrids, in and out of flower, seedlings to specimen sizes, repotting supplies, and 30 years' worth of orchid growing advice! 515 Aspen Rd. Bolinas., CA 94924
(415) 868 0203; www.californiaorchids.com

Sonoma County Orchid Society "Orchids in Wonderland" April 1-2, 2017

Sat 10-5, Sunday 10-4; Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA (across from the fairgrounds)

Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale, April 1 & 2 Sat 9-5; Sun 10-5; 800 West Branch Street, Arroyo Grande, 805-929-5749 www.fcos.org

Sacramento Orchid Show & Exotic Plant Sale April 8th & 9th, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4pm

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 6151 H St., Sacramento, CA. Admission \$8

Visit www.SacramentoOrchids.org

Gold Coast Cymbidium Show: Saturday, April 22nd and Sunday April 23rd from 10AM to 4pm

The Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City, CA