

Marin Orchid Society

Non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



October 26, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting - with Dennis Olivas

Visit Our Website

October President's Letter



Greetings MOS Friends,

Although we still have warm weather in store, summer is now officially over. I hope you've enjoyed the year so far. Maybe you've even had the opportunity to travel.

I have busied myself this past month with replacing the baseboard in my house. I was fortunate enough to obtain, for free, over 300 linear feet of baseboard, almost all in full length boards. So far, I have completed the hallway, the kitchen, most of the laundry room, and about half of my bedroom. To make things easier I purchased

a powered finish nailer. That thing has saved me so much time that it was well worth the cost. There's still quite a bit left to do; living and dining rooms and the guest bedroom. I may also redo some of the hallway because I'm really not satisfied with the joints.

On my last trip to see the kids, I did a side trip to Sunset Valley Orchids to pick up some fertilizer (by the way, I have some extra to sell if anyone is interested). My grandson was with me on the trip. While we were there, we took time to walk through the greenhouses. Fred Clarke has a grand set of new plants coming out for this year. The greenhouses are filled with these new plants, which is truly a spectacular sight. His boarding greenhouse is also amazing, filled with a vast variety. My grandson was awed. If you don't currently receive Fred's newsletters, you should consider subscribing. Fred

has a new set of hybrids coming up for sale - all miniatures. I picked up three plants (two of which are in the Show and Tell this month, one went to my grandson ... I'll get him hooked yet).

The great weather we've had the past month has benefitted my plants. The outdoor plants, which are almost all *cymbidiums* are growing nicely. One of them has put out a new set of flowers meaning that's the second set of flowers; a cool green flower. One *dendrobium* that has been "dead" for over six months now has two keikis on it (never throw out a *dendrobium* until it's been dead for at least a year). Plus, I have a bunch of orphaned plants that are recovering in my growing area. In the house, I have a number of flowering plants.

As you've already heard, we were hoping to have an actual in-person meeting for October. This will be a hybrid meeting where we will allow actual in-person attendance as well the online access as we have met for the past 16 months. There are a number of challenges, some of which have not yet been worked out. The major challenge is to ensure the safety of those who will attend in person. We will, of course, follow the requirements placed by the CDC, the State, and the venue. At the very least that will mean social distancing and masks. We may also require proof of vaccination. The response to our survey elicited minimal interest in attending an in-person meeting.

Attempting to run both an in-person and virtual October Auction proved too complex for a small organization of our size. The MOS Board therefore decided to cancel our yearly auction. Instead, Dennis Olivas has offered to be our Speaker. We are waiting to hear back from him whether he would attend a small in-person gathering or Zoom virtual only. Stay posted!

The Show and Tell links for all the months are elsewhere in this Back Bulb. If you would like to share photos of your lovely plants, please send the photos to the MOS email. To make them easier to find, please put "Show and Tell" in the subject line.

And, if you'd like to share your plant during the meeting, please feel free to do so. We'd love to see what you've got blooming.

As visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings, please feel free to share the link to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Ron

October Speaker - Dennis Olivas Topic: To Be Determined



We are fortunate to have Dennis as our October speaker (to replace the auction). His effervescent personality and wealth of knowledge makes him an MOS favorite!

Dennis Olivas was born on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. As a lad, he helped his mom and aunt grow their orchids and got hooked. He joined the Future Farmers of America and his project was raising and selling these beautiful and exotic plants. In 1980 he moved to the mainland and swore off the orchid family but not for long as he went to the Rod McLellan and Company at their 'Acres of Orchids' in South San Francisco. From there his whole life became one downward spiral. First he filled his home with upwards of 6,000 plants. Later he leased a greenhouse space for his ever-burgeoning orchid collection. Glutton for punishment, his collection soon overflowed the 3,000 square foot greenhouse in Half Moon Bay.

With the help of his close friends from the Bay Area, Napa, and Fresno, they moved his obsession to a greenhouse in Daly City in November of 2013. This created a whole new ball game of learning how to raise orchids, still without heat, but in an area that gets more sun and higher temperatures, with good water year round.

Dennis has been President of the Peninsula Orchid Society, San Francisco Orchid Society, Diablo View Orchid Society and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. Dennis belongs to over 14 orchid societies and tries to assist them whenever possible.

Attend our October Virtual Zoom Meeting!

Here is the invitation information for the MOS monthly zoom meetings. I've also updated the GMAIL calendar.

Marin Orchid Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Marin Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Time: October 26, 2021 Meeting officially starts at 7:00 pm PDT. PLEASE join the Zoom meeting well ahead of time so that you are settled in. To join

Zoom Meeting click here: MOS October Zoom meeting

Every month, Fourth Tuesday 7:00 pm (except December)
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Click here: LCalendar

One tap mobile

- +16699009128,,82158733163# US (San Jose)
- +13462487799,,82158733163# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 821 5873 3163

Local Number

September Speaker Review Peter Lin Top 5 Fragrant Phalaenopsis Species and Their Influence on Modern Novelty Hybridizing

Peter, owner of Big Leaf Orchids in North Texas and hybridizer grows over 10,000 orchids. He specializes in *phalaenopsis* orchids and spoke to us about the top 5 fragrant species and their influence on modern hybridizing. His objective: fun and interesting ways to identify desirable and undesirable attributes from various species parents in hybridizing.



The Top 5 include: P. Gigantea, P. Amboinensis, P. Tetraspi, P. Lueddemanniana, P. Gigantea

What do these 5 species have in common? They are Section Polychilos. They flower when the weather is warm, late spring to summer. They have strong fragrances using their scent to attract pollinators and are more colorful than their cousins. They have shorter inflorescences, quicker to flower from spike to first flower. They can open in as little as two months.

A key to successfully flowering these five species is - because they grow in warm to hot conditions they like 70-80 degrees night temperatures. If roots are cold and wet they can die. This group therefore does best when their roots are kept warm. You can do this by purchasing a seedling mat (about \$20 from Amazon) to ensure their root zones are kept at desired temperatures - set it to 70 degrees.

Peter showed us a number of stunning award winning species and provided the following details:

P. Gigantea

Origin: Borneo

Flower size: 4.4 to 8.6 cm

Flower season: variable, can bloom twice a year, winter & summer.

Can produce hundreds of flowers on pendent branching inflorescences Sweet fragrance, citrusy like an orange peel.

Flower colors: reddish brown, maroon, purple or violet-brown blotches In Nature they perch on top of trees. They need lots of light so use supplemental light if growing indoors.

They do not like much repotting so be sure to use potting material that will last a long time.

P. Bellina

Origin: Malaya & Sarawak, Borneo - State Flower of Sarawak, Malaysia

Flower size: 3.9 to 7.0 cm Flower season: Summer to Fall

Short inflorescences, rarely see branching

Sweet pleasing lemon fragrance

Signature purple inner half of lower sepals Sequential 1-2 flowers opens at a time.

Variable shape & color

Peter plants them in orchiata bark as it lasts 4-5 years, with spaghum moss layered on top for moisture retention

P. Amboinensis

Origin: Maluku, Sulawesi, Indonesia

Flower size: 3.3 to 6.8 cm

Flower season: variable, twice a year

Fragrance is strong and musky.

Good mounted on cork plaque or open mix of fir bark & charcoal.

For the first two months grow it flat on bench to allow cork to absorb water and a chance for the roots to grow on top of the bark. Then can hang

vertically.

Variable shape & color

P. Lueddemanniana

Origin: Phillipines

Flower size: 3.7 to 8.0 cm

Flower season: Late spring & winter

3-5 flowers on inflorescence that can branch. There are short inflorescence

type with larger flowers.

Fragrance: medicinal smell, some can be sweet.

Variable shape & color

Flowers heavily tesselated with red purple bars.

P. Tetraspis (syn. P. speciosa)

Origin: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Flower size: 2.5 to 6.0 cm Flower season: spring and fall

3-5 flowers per inflorescence that can branch

Variable flowers - white, randomly overlaid with red spots, bars, blotches,

puts out lots of spikes Variable shape & color

Peter then showed numerous images and spoke of his successes and challenges with primary hybridizing and pairing species such as P. David Lim 1974 (p. amboinensis x p. gigantea). He talked about how choosing colorful parents produced colorful hybrids and so much more!

Peter indicated the best website to view species *phaelaenopsis* is: www.phals.net

His website is: BigLeafOrchids.com. You can also find him on: facebook.com/bigleaforchids: Ebay.com/str/bigleaforchids; Instagram: #bigleaorchids

Submitted by Terumi Leinow

Image of P. Yang Yang Pink Mary x Hawaii Drago Girl below



2020 President's AOS Awards of Appreciation



For the time I have been president of the Society, it has been my pleasure to present AOS Awards of Appreciation to members in recognition of their contributions to the Society. This presentation has been a standard part of the festivities at the Holiday Dinner. However, there was no 2020 Holiday Dinner. And, because I made a couple of errors, the awards did not arrive until mid-year. So, though it took overly long, I presented the 2020 awards to two deserving individuals.

I presented one award to Lynne Murrell. Before she moved to Arizona, Mary Ann donated a more than 125 plants to the Society. Lynne took about 100 of those plants, repotted them (yes, repotted 100 plants), and cared for them. Those plants took up a considerable amount of bench space in Lynne's greenhouse. When came the time to sell them, she organized a list of the

plants, with photos, and even a suggested price for each plant. As the plants were purchased, Lynne transported the plants back to her home and arranged for a place for them to be picked up. The Society realized over \$400 for this sale. While we are grateful to all those who purchased plants, and to Naoko for handling the accounting, this endeavor would not have been successful without Lynne's involvement. Thank you, Lynne.

I presented the other award to Terumi Leinow. Each month all members of the Society receive our newsletter, The Back Bulb. That newsletter is filled with goodies: articles, calendar items, meeting notes, etc. I'm certain we all enjoy reading the Back Bulb each month. That newsletter requires a fair amount of organizing. Once all the material is available, they need to be arranged and placed into the newsletter structure. Terumi has taken on the responsibility of organizing our newsletter each month. She has had to learn how the software works, how to use the newsletter template, how to insert content into the template, and occasionally to bug the rest of us (most often me) to get our content to her so she can send the newsletter on time. Terumi had no experience using the software but is now quite adept a it. Terumi, thank you for keeping the newsletter running.

AOS Corner, October 2021



In Case You Have Not Heard: Due to COVID concerns, the AOS 2021 Centennial Celebration has been rescheduled for April 6th - 9th, 2022. All events and activities which were to take place October 27th - 30th, 2021 will now happen in April, at The Biltmore in Coral Gables FL. Watch for updates!

NOTEWORTHY: Even though the **CENTENNIAL SHOW** has been postponed, the 2021 Fall Members Meeting will be held as a virtual event Saturday, October 30, 11:30 AM PST. Check in to learn the latest about what's happening in the American Orchid Society!

Agenda:

- * Town Hall & Meeting of the Members including a State of the Organization Report
- * AOS Projects & Innovations
- * Committee Reports
- * Introducing New Judging Personnel and Status Elevations...and more!

Fall Members Meeting Registration

Registration Required: <u>Registration information</u>

Don't forget to REGISTER for these FREE upcoming webinars, so AOS can send you the LINK to join:



To register go to: <u>Greenhouse Chat</u> Can't make it on the scheduled date or time? No worries, we digitize the webinars and they are available to view.

THREE MONTHLY AOS ORCHID JUDGINGS are

Now Available:

Please wear a mask, and respect Social Distancing

Pacific Central Judging Center - The 1st Tuesday of each month, during the regularly SFOS monthly meeting at the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Next judging is Tuesday November 2, 7pm AND the 3rd Saturday of each month at Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside CA. NEXT Judging is Sat. October 16, 9:00 am. Questions? Contact James Heilig: heiligja@msu.edu. Come for the judging, and also tour the beautiful Filoli Gardens.

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center's (CSNJC) returns to judging indoors in conjunction with the Sacramento Orchid Society's monthly meeting: Wednesday, November 3. Plant entry begins at 6:00 pm at Oddfellows Hall, 1831 Howe Avenue, Sacramento. Questions? Contact Lynne Murrell: lynne.murrell@outlook.com

Until we meet again, hopefully SOON, stay healthy and Happy Growing!

Lynne Murrell AOS Representative

My Thoughts On Growing Plants Indoors Ron Ludwig



Bulkheads



Ron's window set up



Pumice stones (wear mask when handling!)

When I grew plants in terrariums, I created mini greenhouses that were humidified, had a gravel "floor" where water accumulated to increase humidity, had their own lighting, and built-in fans for air circulation. These really were self-contained greenhouses.

Now that I'm growing on shelves, I'm finding that there some difficulties in creating a healthy environment for the plants. The light is not consistent. When I grew under lights, I controlled how long the lights were on and the intensity. In an open environment, the light is at the whim of Nature. Fortunately, I have south and west facing windows. However, I no longer have the drains to eliminate excess water. So I limit myself to growing on the kitchen counter, in the corner behind the sink.

Plans for a full indoor growing area:

I purchased 3 shelf units 30" long that fit into the corner; the assembled shelving units extends to above my windows for plants.

I purchased some inexpensive plastic trays from Amazon that fit the shelves well. Inspect for flaws before using. As the trays are about 3" tall, I put in a 2" layer of light weight red pumice stone rock. from Marin Landscapes. The stones are about ½ to ¾" allowing nooks and crannies for water and plant

pots to nestle. The trays are light so they cannot be moved once filled with

plants and stone.

I water with a handheld shower head and long hose connected to the kitchen faucet. Drainage: how to deal with excess water in the trays? I purchased some bulkheads: tubes that are punched through the tray wall. They are threaded so that when the nuts are tightened, the hole is watertight. These have a ¼" nipple that fits the ¼" tubing that's used for drip irrigation systems. However, I found that the barbed nipple is actually 1/4" OUTSIDE diameter (O.D.) whereas the drip tubing is more like 1/8" inside diameter. I purchased 3/8" OD tubing that is 1/4" INSIDE diameter to fit. I will insert the bulkheads into the trays so that the water level never exceeds 2". On the nipple on the outside of the tray, I'll attach the tubing, run the lines down the legs of the shelving units and into the sink. The plan is to bring all the tubes along the shelf edges so that they all come together at one point so there's only one drain line actually running into the sink. That was the plan. However, after rethinking, I decided to take the drain from the upper shelf and run it into the tray on the lower shelf. That eliminated three long drain lines leaving just the drains from the lower shelves to be fed into the sink. Thus far, my system includes trays that contain the water, stones that keep the plants out of the water yet provide a source of humidity, and a drainage system that prevents kitchen flooding.

A few essential unresolved items: (a) simplifying fertilization because the plants towards the corner are not easy to reach and using a step stool while lifting a heavy watering can creates a risk, (b) simplifying watering, and (c) adding fans to improve air circulation. In my previous cultivation solution, I used a Dosatron hooked into my kitchen faucet water supply. That unit now supplies fertilizer to my outdoor orchids. Because the cost of a second Dosatron starts at about \$400 I have decided against a second unit.

A caution on using pumice.

Pumice is volcanic **glass**. The process that creates it is similar to making puffed rice except that the steam puffs the lava. That's why it's so light. The downside is that pumice powders very easily. Each piece is covered with microscopic dust. You do not want that dust in your lungs! Wear a mask; make sure there is not a strong breeze.

Wash the pumice before use. Outdoors, I place a bunch of pumice stones into a piece of burlap and repeatedly dip that into a bucket of water. The water will begin to take on a red hue and there will be a layer of red mud on the bottom. The mud is similar to one of the ingredients Romans used to make concrete! It takes several rinses to get the bulk of the dust off the stones. DO NOT flush the muddy water down your house drain! Pouring it over garden soil has no adverse effects.

Final observation - issues:

First, the trays are very flimsy and do not have the rigidity to stay upright when any actual force is applied to the walls. Filling the tray with water causes the walls to bulge outward. So the weight of the drain tubing is sufficient to bend the walls where the end of the drain bulkhead is actually above the edge of the tray.

Secondly, had I figured out that the tray walls would flex as much as they do, then I would have installed the bulkheads towards the bottom of the tray side so that the flex would raise the drain end to the water level height I wanted.

The third point is the placement of the actual drain lines. The two I have installed thus far are unsightly. I considered putting them on the backside of the whole unit but that would have proven more difficult as I would have had to empty all the trays so I could move them and then I would have had to route the drain lines behind the shelves while standing in the sink. That last bit would be both unstable and undignified. I'm pausing now to reassess my plans. Drilling holes through the very thin tray walls is an issue. Even with a pilot hole, I had to drill a final 3/8" hole. Unfortunately, the large drill bit seizes on the plastic which then rips like paper. One suggestion I've had is to double up the trays so the overall container is stiffer. I'm really thinking that just buying sturdier trays would maybe be a better idea.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell



Here are links to past few months of MOS Members Show & Tell. Thank you for your outstanding submissions. Submit up to three for October Show and Tell to marin.orchids@gmail.com



Click here to view:

March Show & Tell

April Show & Tell

May Show & Tell

June Show & Tell

July Show & Tell

September Show & Tell

October Show & Tell







POE is back!!

Save the dates: February 25-27, 2022 the 69th Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition. More details to come.



Please support MOS!

Are you an Amazon shopper? If so PLEASE support MOS at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to MOS. You need to click on THIS link each time you shop so put it in a convenient place: Amazon smiles





GOLD COUNTRY ORCHIDS & PAPH PARADISE

FALL OPEN HOUSE

GOLD COUNTRY: LAELIA ANCEPS LEAD DIVISIONS \$25 (Reg \$150-\$850) MANY OTHER AWARD QUALITY CATTLEYA DIVISIONS

OCTOBER 15 & 16 9:00-5:00 OCTOBER 17 10:00-4:00

390 BIG BEN ROAD LINCOLN, CA

MAKE A DAY OF IT!

ASK FOR OUR LIST OF LOCAL WINERIES, RESTAURANTS AND MICROBREWERIES

PAPH PARADISE: COMPLEX PAPHS ON SALE CHECK OUT OUR LATEST CROSSES Our inventory and selection continues to expand!



SOME NURSERIES FOR YOUR ORCHID SHOPPING PLEASURE THAT ARE OPEN CERTAIN DAYS OF THE WEEK, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY OR TO ORDER ON LINE.

TELEPHONE OR EMAIL TO REQUEST DETAILS:

Brookside Orchids, 2718B Apine Rd, Menlo Park, CA brookside-orchids.com 650 854 3711

Golden Gate Orchids, 225 Velasco Ave., San Francisco, CA tmperlite@gmail.com 415 467 3737

Shelldance Orchid Gardens, 2000 Hwy 1, Pacifica, CA shelldance.com 650 355 4845

For supplies: Flori-Culture Orchid Supplies, 7621 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael 916 333 4885



D&D Flowers, 169 First Ave., Daly City, CA d.olivas@comcast.net 925 969 1246

California Orchids, 515 Aspen Rd, Bolinas, CA info@californiaorchids.com 415 868 0203

Gold Country Orchids, 390 Big Ben Rd, Lincoln, CA gcorchids@aol.com 916 645 8600

Paph Paradise, 390 Big Ben Rd., Lincoln, CA paphparadise.com 209 727 5265



President - Ron Ludwig, Vice-President - Sandra Merlo, Treasurer - Naoko Nojiri, Secretary - Cathy Thompson, Members at Large - Carolyn Fisher, John Merlo, Terumi Leinow, Daniel Heller. You may reach the MOS Board by calling: 415-895-0667.

Next Board meeting is November 4, Virtual Zoom meeting, 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to attend with advance notice. Contact Ron for details.



The (Orchid) Doctor Is In!

- Have a problem plant, or maybe just need a little advice on which orchids might grow well in your conditions, when to water, or why your orchid just will not bloom?
- Ask the Doctor! Just send us an email with your orchid questions. Simply write "Orchid Doctor" in the subject line of your email: marin.orchids@gmail.com.





Useful Resources for Orchid Lovers

Useful Links:

- Marin Orchid Society
- American Orchid Society
- San Francisco Orchid Society
- Online Orchid Species Identification
- <u>California Sierra Nevada Judging Center</u>

American Orchid Society: AOS.org

- You may download a beginner's guide to growing orchids.
- Membership is inexpensive--digital membership is available--and includes online seminars and more.
- AOS Judging Centers Info and Locations- <u>AOS Judging Centers Nearby</u>



Marin Orchid Society Purpose and Vision

The purpose of the Marin Orchid Society, our Mission and Vision, is:

- To provide support for those having common interests in the appreciation and culture of orchid plants, to broaden their interests and improve their knowledge
- To acquire and distribute to the members practical and scientific information about the collection, culture and propagation of orchids

- To arrange the dissemination of information through exhibits, lectures, access to publications, and any other means, for the encouragement of orchid growing
- To cooperate in and take part in activities of other Societies with purposes similar to those of this Society.



2021 Marin Orchid Society Calendar

October 26: Virtual Meeting with Dennis Olivas

November 23: Virtual Meeting



Other Orchid Societies' Meetings

(Many of these meetings are virtual on-line meetings: check their websites for details)

First Monday: Carmel Orchid Society meeting; The First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado Street, Monterey; <u>Carmel Orchid Society</u>

First Tuesday: San Francisco Orchid Society meeting; San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; <u>San Francisco Orchid Society</u>

First Wednesday: Sacramento Orchid Society meeting; Odd Fellows Hall, 1831 Howe Ave. (921-0569), Sacramento; www.sacramentoorchids.org.

First Wednesday: Santa Maria Orchid Society meeting; Veterans' Memorial Center, 313 W. Tunnell Street; Contact Chuck Scheitaur at 937-6201

Second Tuesday: Sonoma County Orchid Society meeting; Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa (across from the Fairgrounds) Sonoma County Orchid Society

Second Tuesday: Monterey Bay Orchid Society meeting; Lincoln Ave Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Ave, Salinas; (831) 663-3953

Third Monday: Orchid Society of California; Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue Oakland; <u>California Orchid Society</u>

Third Tuesday: Coastal Valley Orchid Society; Lompoc, CA; <u>Coastal Valley</u> Orchid Society

Third Friday: Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers meeting; San Mateo Garden

