

Marin Orchid Society

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



November 23, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting - Digital Show & Tell

Visit Our Website

November President's Letter



Greetings MOS Friends,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

When I worked in the corporate world, I referred to the 6-week span from Thanksgiving through the end of the year as wasted time, nothing was really done. Between the holidays, the rush to use up saved vacation time, and the various holiday parties and lunches, there was little time to accomplish much. That made scheduling much easier as we only dealt with preparing for yearend processing.

It's a bit different for me now; scheduling is when my dog sitter is available. I just returned from a 4-day stay in SoCal visiting and enjoying Halloween. My grandson was Spiderman (not really certain which one. In case you are not familiar with the Spiderman multiverse, there are like a hundred of them including one in a red costume, one in a black costume, a female, and even a pig). My granddaughter was Pebbles Flintstone. We did the rounds through the neighborhood (keeping twenty 4 to 7-year-old kids together is like trying to herd cats without even the benefit of a box). A fun time.

I'm planning another trip the first weekend of December to set up the traditional Christmas train layout for the kids. Even though I may not be home for Christmas again this year, I may put up a tree and my own train

layout. I have not done that since I moved to Sonoma.

I've had a couple of pleasant surprises in my plants. I had several flats of plants that just came to me; you probably all know what that's like. Most were in really bad shape and were well on their way to being dead when I received them. However, about a dozen were showing signs of vigor. Those are growing quite well; one even bloomed. I'll have a photo of it in Show and Tell this month. Also, one of my plants in my kitchen window has buds coming up. The last surprise was one of my *cymbidiums* (cool green flowers) is now putting out another spike. This is the 4th bloom set on this plant this year (first bloom was 3 spikes, second was 3, third was 2, there's 1 spike so far in this last bloom set). This is a really big plant, 18" container.

As you all know, our auction that should have been in October did not happen. Because we could not have a truly in-person meeting, we decided instead to do a fundraiser sale. We are working now to put together all the parts. We have a number of gift certificates, about 20 plants both purchased from Brookside Nursery and plants provided by several members, and we have some goodies like wines and cases of beer.

All of that will be in an Excel workbook and sent out on 16 November. The sale will begin on the 18th and run through the 29th (or, until everything is sold). This is a first come, first served sale. There will be full instructions with the sales list.

Oh, and just because there is a price on the sales list, you can certainly donate more!

We've received notice that there will be a POE in February 2022. MOS plans to enter a display. We will send out more information in a short while. Please look at your plants in the coming months to see what might be available that you might want to display. We would welcome your plants and here is the chance for you to show them off.

Lastly, our meeting this month is our digital show and tell. I've already sent out a call for presentations, we've received one confirmation thus far. If you'd like to show something, please send an email to the MOS email account.

The Show and Tell online 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!

January Speaker - Ron Parsons Topic: Orchid Hunting on the Island of Rhodes



Daniel Heller, interim Board member, has lined up a list of interesting speakers for MOS (see MOS Calendar below). We begin the year with photographer extraordinaire, Ron Parsons, taking us on a virtual tour to Greece!

"Orchid Hunting on the Island of Rhodes"

In early spring of 2010 I traveled with my co-author Mary Gerritsen and three German friends throughout the island of Rhodes. Although Rhodes is a Greek island, you can see Turkey 11 miles away. We drove to as many orchid localities as possible to locate these beautiful flowers. The main genera are *Ophrys, Orchis* and *Anacamptis*, but we found several other species in different genera for a total of 30 species. Although it had been a dry winter, and we did not see huge numbers of many species, the season had sped up, revealing some typically later species. This talk features the orchids seen, as well as a number of other wildflowers, and the spectacular Greek scenery.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 45 years, and has been interested in species orchids for most of that time. Ron loves to photograph orchids and most other flowers whenever he can, whether it be on trips to see them in nature or in collections. He loves to travel to see orchids in the wild, and does so as often as possible.

Ron has more than 90,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has 4000 published photos that have appeared in magazines, periodicals, journals, and books. Ron has co-authored four botanical books, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World and Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives. The third book, a large, luxurious, 18.5 pound, two-volume set, A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species was published by Redfern Natural History Productions in January of 2014. The most recent is The American Orchid Society Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture which was released early in 2019.

Attend our November 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: November 23, 2021. Meeting officially starts at 7:00 pm PST. PLEASE join the Zoom meeting well ahead of time so that you are settled in. To join Zoom Meeting click here: MOS November Zoom meeting

We invite MOS member participation for this meeting. Do you have a digital slide show to share? Vacation highlights, orchids? Up to 7 minutes in length. Please let Ron know if you need help in setting up your Zoom presentation.

So far we have exotic bonsai's from Japan and a hula performance!

MOS meets 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

October Speaker Review "I Did it My Way" with Dennis Olivas

We were privileged to have as our speaker, Dennis Olivas of D&D Flowers. As Dennis himself admit he is an unconventional orchid grower as evidenced by the title of his talk.

Dennis has been growing orchids for a long time. At one point he had 6000 orchids in a small apartment and had to be creative to manage watering and deal with excess water removal. Recognizing the limitations of the apartment, he leased a 3000 sq. ft. greenhouse and continued to grow his collection. Since 2014, he houses his collection in a 7500 sq. ft. Daly City greenhouse.

Dennis' philosophy of and techniques for orchid growing were the result of an event that happened over thirty years ago when the heater in his greenhouse died. Preferring to buy plants rather than replace the heater, he didn't replace it and so, ever since, Dennis grows his plants in an unheated greenhouse. Dennis takes a Darwinian approach to orchid growing: 'survival of the fittest,' but he tries to ensure fitness by treating his plants well during the growing period and taking a more hands off approach during the cold, rainy period. He grows a dizzying variety of orchids including *laelias*, *cattleyas*, *dendrobiums*, *oncidiums*, *paphiopedilums*, to name just a few.

One of the key techniques Dennis has developed for taking care of plants in an unheated greenhouse when it is cold is to stop/limit watering. He may not water for up to three months in the winter (November through January); if the winter is dry, he will water once a month early in the morning.

His greenhouse in Daly City tends to be in the 40s during the winter, in the summer it can get as hot as 105. Timing for watering (fertilizing) in the summer is also important. If 80-90 degrees, then water very early in the morning, best before or right at sunrise. Always water before noon. If it is really hot, then wet down walkways and benches but not the plants. Don't wet plants down when hot. Air movement helps when it is hot. His Daly City greenhouse has vents that face the ocean, bringing in cool air. Good air movement is also important in other situations. *Cymbidiums*, for example, that are grown outside and it is cold and rainy will fare much better if there is also strong air movement. Dennis also noted that *cymbidiums*, more than other orchids benefit from a monthly treatment with epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) of two tbsp/gallon. Water first, then treat with the epsom salt solution. Magnesium sulfate is supposed to promote strong root growth.

Dennis also talked about keeping a collection that is virus-free and commented that the worst vector for virus transfer is your hands. Before dividing your plant, check for viruses. He throws away plants that have a virus, except in those rare cases where it is a favorite plant and/or he wants to use it for breeding. He noted that virus can't be transmitted from pollen. A seed pod, but not the seeds can be infected. In this case it is better to use a dry, rather than a green seed pod for germination, or even better, when making the cross, use the virused plant as a pollen parent rather than a pod parent. Also, to eliminate virus transfer, pots that he reuses are soaked in a 25% Clorox solution.

Orchids are generally classified as cool, intermediate or warm growers based on the following. Cool growers are considered plants that generally like a maximum daytime temperature of 80 degrees and minimum night temperature of 50 degrees. For intermediate growers the maximum daytime temperature is 85 degrees, the night time low is 55 and for warm growers the maximum daytime temperature is 90 degrees and the minimum night time temperature is 60 degrees. Dennis commented that this temperature tolerant zone classification is very general. His own experiences and expertise has allowed him to grow many different kinds of orchids under conditions not always strictly definied by their presumptive temperature tolerances.

The following is a snapshot of some of the orchids Dennis grows in his unheated greenhouse. He grows a lot of *cattleyas* because he really likes them. He grows *Cat. labiata*, which some would say is a warm grower. He grows *laelias* including *Laelia tenebrosa*, *Laelia purpurata*, *Laelia alaorii* and *Laelia anceps*. *Laelia purpurata* is very temperature tolerant and can be grown outdoors in the Bay Area if shaded. *Laelia alaorii* is a three foot tall plant. *Laelia anceps* are from Mexico and grow well in the unheated greenhouse.

He grows *Epidendrum kockii*, a cool grower that can have a 20+ flowers that are big for this miniature plant. He keeps it in a clay pot and provides good

air flow. He grows *Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Dark* and *Spotty' AM/AOS* and *Den. (Gillieston Jazz x Tosca Starburst) 'Iris'*. He grows *sarchochilus* outdoors when it gets really hot and waters them daily in the early morning. *Sarchochilus* throw keikis regularly and now come in many colors. He grows *paphiopedilums*, including complex *paphs. Paph Freckles 'San Jan'* is an example of an old hybrid (registered in 1968). These plants can go without water for 3 months when it is cold. Soak them really well before starting their winter drought.

Dennis grows a lot of *vandas* in his greenhouse including the cool growing small *Vanda alpine* and *Vanda coerulea*, which he grows hot in summer and cool in winter. He grows *cymbidiums* and *lycastes*. One of his favorite orchids, perhaps not surprising, is *Cattlianthe Dennis Olivas 'Best"* that won an AM from the AOS in 2018.

Dennis cited several very useful sources including Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia and Carson Barns, an orchid consultant.

Dennis is proof that it is possible to grow a wide variety of orchids under what, according to some, may not be optimum conditions. His willingness to experiment with growing techniques and to tolerate orchid loss has enabled him to have a large, broad and healthy collection.

Submitted by Patricia Olson

MOS Fundraiser



As you know, MOS did not have our yearly Auction, the proceeds of which benefits the MOS general operating funds. Instead, we will be having a Fund Raiser. Items include cases of beer, wine, Dynagrow, gift certificates from Sloats, Ace Hardware, to the Madonna Inn and more. (When you are shopping at Ace, Sloats or other contributing merchants, please thank them for their generous donations to MOS).

Numerous orchid plants will also be available at low prices for purchase such as the *cyrtochilum macranthumb* below. Our President will be sending out a detailed list, photos and descriptions where possible and prices. **Items will be sold to the first person who responds**. Look for an email from our MOS President and we hope you will be generous with your contributions.



AOS Corner, November 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 on **April 6-9, 2022** at The Biltmore in Coral Gables FL. Watch for updates!







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 at your leisure.

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, December 7, 7 pm. AND the 3rd Saturday of each month at Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside CA. NEXT Judging is Sat. November 20, 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, December 1. Plant entry begins at 6:00 pm at Oddfellows Hall, 1831 Howe Avenue, Sacramento. Questions? Contact Lynne Murrell: lynne.murrell@outlook.com

AOS Membership

The Holidays are almost upon us - Why not give the gift of an American Orchid Society Membership? The Orchid gift that keeps on giving! Your friends, relatives and colleagues can be a part of our great orchid community and enjoy the fabulous benefits that come with a membership in the American Orchid Society, including: *The Award-winning Orchids magazine and its searchable archives *Access to our awards' database, OrchidPro *Access to all Webinars, from 2014 to current *Savings in Orchid Marketplace, AOS Publications, and more! All you need is their name, their email address, and their mailing address in order to get them signed up online! Otherwise, give AOS a call at (305) 740-2010 and they can assist you over the phone. Available from 9AM to 5:30PM EST.

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

Lynne Murrell AOS Representative

Gearing Up for a Season of Indoor Growing by Thomas Marinda

Reprinted from Orchids Contents, October 2015, Vol. 84, #10

Those of you who have the luxury of living in a climate where tropical orchids can remain outside through the winter cannot imagine the brow-furrowing vexations endured by those of us who have to sequester our orchid collections to safety before the winter season. Not only is every square inch of windowsill or greenhouse bench space already spoken for, many orchid nurseries choose this time of year to advertise lower prices and bargains. After all, many of them need to pack up for the winter too. I learned long ago that I cannot resist an orchid sale so my windowsills and benches will always be filled beyond capacity through the inclement weather.

This is the kind of obsession that many of us share. Some would call it passion, others pathology. However, due to our fascination with the outrageous diversity displayed in the tens of thousands of orchid species and the never-ending array of spectacular and easy to grow hybrids, we must resign ourselves to slavishly devoting hours of our personal time, and dedicating vast amounts of space and financial resources to our collections. Are we insane? Well, if so, we are in good company. Some extremely respectable individuals are secret orchid growers. You would never know it if you saw them at work or on the street. They seem normal enough, with respectable careers, devoted spouses and above-average children. But we know that we are living on the edge, seized by an uncontrollable mania that immerses us in that beautiful and mesmerizing world of orchids. If you have not yet reached capacity, what are you waiting for?

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT: Your collection grew well this summer thanks to all the excellent care you gave it after reading about the plants in Orchids. Those that summered outside received plenty of rainwater (in Hawaii), excellent light and air movement. Many have put on large new pseudobulbs. *Cattleyas* are forming sheaths, *phalaenopsis* are hardening their newest growths and *dendrobiums* are producing terminal leaves on their long canes, basically finishing their vegetative growth for the year. Now is the time to prepare the winter growing space, be it a windowsill, light room or greenhouse. If you have not already done so, take the time to clear out debris from last year, clean and sterilize the surfaces with a disinfectant and plan your strategy for getting all your orchids safely inside for the winter.

NO HIDDEN PASSENGERS: With many of your warmer-growing plants, such as *vandas* and *angraecoids*, about to come in for the winter before the first cold snaps, now may be your last chance to check your orchids for hitchhiking critters. Any number of undesirable winter residents may have invaded orchids that are outside. Sucking insects, such as mites, scale or mealybugs, are often decimated by the beneficial insects that live in our yards or washed away by rains, but sometimes, small enclaves of these pests survive. Take the time now to look over plants carefully and treat any pests accordingly. Even though they may not be visible on the leaves, colonies of ants sometimes invade the porous interstices of orchid mix. These cannot be tolerated and could cause you a lot of grief if allowed in the greenhouse. Once discovered, the ants must be evicted either by drowning or drenching with an insecticide. It is always a good idea to repot such plants in fresh medium as the old mix is likely to be seriously broken down or badly acidified by the formic acid released by ant habitation.

FLOWER POWER: Many hobbyists anticipate the approaching blooming season for many orchids, including *cymbidium*, *phalaenopsis* and *dendrobiums*, by fertilizing plants less frequently and with a lower concentration. In particular, the use of high-nitrogen fertilizers this time of year can inhibit blooming by encouraging plants to continue growing foliage. For orchids that you are expecting to spike in the autumn, switching to a blossom booster fertilizer now can give plants the extra boost they need to flower extravagantly.

THE LITTLE DEATH: A few orchids — deciduous dendrobiums, lycastes, many terrestrials (Habenaria, Cynorkis) and some members of the Catasetinae — are showing brown-tipped or yellowing leaves now. Do not be alarmed. Usually shortly after the autumn equinox, as day length starts to shorten, many orchids adjust and slough off leaves in preparation for dormancy. Most of these are benefiting from the cooler night temperatures after enduring the summer heat and are genetically programmed to shut down their metabolisms. Respond by letting these plants dry out and holding back plant fertilizer. Overwatering now can lead to rot problems later.

JUST ONE MORE: It is so tempting to load up on new orchids during those ubiquitous autumn sales. I certainly cannot preach to anyone about the virtues of restraint when it comes to orchid acquisition, so I hereby release you from any guilt you may be feeling about crowding your collection too much this winter. It may be irresponsible of me to tell you this, but we are what we are. I believe the correct word is "enthusiasts." So go for it. Order a

few new sale plants from orchid nurseries. And have fun.

Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center.

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 November 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

November 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!

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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



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



MOS Board of Directors - Join Us!

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 January 6, 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.



2021-22 Marin Orchid Society Calendar

November 23: Virtual Meeting - Digital Show & Tell

January 25: Ron Parsons, "Orchid Hunting on the Island of Rhodes" February 22: Ray Barkalow, "Biologics/Microbes in Orchid Growing"

March 22: Lynne Murrell and Tom Pickford, Topics TBD

April 26: Bob Hamilton, "Orchid Craze: Odontoglossums and Pleurothalids"



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

