



Marin Orchid Society

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



May 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Visit Our
Website

May President's Letter



Greetings MOS Friends,

Happy May. Here we are already 5 months into the year. Summer is just around the corner with Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer, even closer. The weather is quickly warming; I'm able to take Kitsu for her morning walk without a jacket. Plus, lizards and squirrels abound making those walks sometimes a bit frantic when one jumps out in front of her. Kitsu has figured out that one of the houses behind me has a feeder so the squirrels congregate there making for good hunting. I don't know what she would do if she ever actually caught one but I do my best to not

let that happen.

I'm in SoCal for Levi's 7th birthday on the 6th. It is true that one never forgets the days their children are born but it's also true that one never forgets the days that the grandchildren were born. That day was a bunch of us sitting in a waiting room for word that the baby had been born. We did not know that during that time the kid was stuck and it took several doctors to dislodge him - and, that kid is still stubborn. As I'm writing this well before the 6th, I'll tell you in the next letter what actually happened

The various building projects are finally in motion. My patio is just a few stones and some bender boards from being completed. What was about a 150

sq. ft. patio is now more than 280 sq. ft. larger where I'll build a growing area and rehouse my plants. Then time to put in a full drip system for all the plants on the ground and hanging on the carport supports. I'll also start hanging a bunch of plants on the corkscrew willow tree sitting out there. With all the new space, I'm moving my BBQ back towards the fence to give me room for my table and chairs. Hopefully, I'll start doing dinner out there for the summer. A dining area, a couple of steps from the house, with numerous orchids surrounding the area. Sounds like a good plan.

Soon the painters will start working on my house and the shed. The paint of the walls is the original from when the building was assembled in 1991. Unfortunately, paint just does not stand up to 30 years of weather without maintenance. About 15 years before I bought this place, the previous owner had begun a program of deferred maintenance meaning that really nothing was done. It's finally getting fixed.

Next will come finishing the painting inside and some revamping in the kitchen. There's a lot of work to be accomplished before the end of the year. Ya gotta have goals or nothing is accomplished.

I hope you were able to make it out to Mary's sale at California Orchids. I went there really not expecting to purchase much. I should really know better. A couple of small plants here, a *Cattleya* on a log there, and another variety of *Rhipsalis* in between and I ended up with 8 plants. Mary really does have great plants but I need to learn to live within a plant budget. Well, either that, or I need to purchase only outdoor plants, because I have room there.

Our April Marin Orchid Society meeting was quite successful. Our speaker, Bob Hamilton, was terrific, really capturing the audience. And, as this was our first in-person meeting in some time, we had a great turnout. We had 28 people in attendance, most of them in the room. Our speaker brought a great opportunity table which spurred record-breaking raffle ticket sales. We also had a great display of plants in both our actual and virtual show and tell tables. Thank you to Kol Shofar for hosting our meeting and to Kurt who set up all the AV equipment.

Our next three meetings will be virtual meetings, on Zoom only. These meetings are hosted by Mount Baker Orchid Society. You'll see connection details in the upcoming Back Bulbs. We will likely continue our partnership with Mount Baker as that has proved valuable in opening up our speaker pool. The virtual meeting format allows us to obtain speakers from much farther away. Right now, MBOS and MOS equally share the meeting load. For those meetings where we are the host, we will have in-person meetings. Our usual meeting place at BioMarin has not yet reopened. However, it appears that Kol Shofar will be available for our meetings. Plus, they have an awesome AV setup.

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.

Please, if you send photos to be added to the Show and Tell site, and if you

will not be at the meeting to talk about them, please add a short description to the photo in the email. 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.

Ron

May Speaker - Brandon Tam Topic: Huntington Orchid Collection



Brandon Tam oversees one of the largest orchid collections in the United States and one of the most diverse species collections in the world, which has grown from 2,000 to over 10,000 plants in the past decade. He manages over 3,600 unique varieties, representing 280 genera, 2,200 hybrids, and 1,500 species, including, but not limited to, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium*, *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya*, and *Stanhopea*. Brandon is responsible for the day-to-day horticultural operations, including acquisitions, propagation, conservation, and supervision of over 40 orchid volunteers. He is also tasked with coordinating numerous public and education events, such as orchid shows, judgments, and conferences. Brandon began managing the collection when he was 16 and has been with The Huntington for over 13 years as the Orchid Collection Specialist.

The Huntington Collection:

"With over 10,000 orchid plants, The Huntington has one of the largest orchid collections in the United States and one of the five most diverse collections in the world, with over 3,600 unique varieties, representing 280 genera. The collection has grown significantly through donations, acquisitions, and propagations in the last decade. These orchids and other tropical plants are maintained in three off-view greenhouses and one public conservatory, totaling over 26,000 square feet in space. The extensive diversity of orchids within the collections enables staff to display blooming orchids year-round in the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science, where examples of rare plants are rotated on a weekly basis for the public to view, and appreciate. The Huntington also focuses on other important orchid aspects such as art, rare book, and archival collecting because it plays a large role in the history of this magnificent plant family.

Join us on a virtual tour of the collection as we discover the importance of this collection and the role it plays in the botanical world."



About the May 24 Virtual Meeting

Please Attend our Virtual Zoom Meeting at 7:00 pm

We invite you to attend our May Virtual zoom meeting - a joint meeting with the Mount Baker Orchid Society.

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

Time: May 24, 2022 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 Joint Zoom Meeting with Mount Baker Orchid Society click here:

[Zoom with MBOS](#)

After the speaker concludes his talk, you must SIGN OFF the above Zoom link and re-sign in below to continue with the MOS meeting.

[MOS May Zoom meetinge](#)

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

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](#)

April Speaker Review

Orchid Craze: History of the Rise and Fall of Orchid Raising & *Odontoglossum* and *Pleurothallids* with Robert Hamilton

Robert Hamilton and his partner, John Leathers, grow and hybridize cool growing Andean orchids. Robert focused on the exploration and discovery of orchids in South America, particularly in the Andes regions around the equator in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Throughout this region, there are lots of valleys and ‘pockets’ in the Andes that favor speciation.

A number of factors contributed to the 19th century orchid craze. In the early 19th century, the explorer-scientist Alexander von Humboldt developed the concept of isotherms, the idea that specific elevations resulted in habitats for specific plants. The American public was introduced to the beauty of the Andes in the mid 19th century through stunning landscape paintings by artists such as Frederick E. Church. The 19th century was a fertile time for invention: the first vaccine, Mendel’s law of inheritance, the laying of the first transatlantic cable.

An important invention for orchid culture in England, where they could not grow unprotected, was a process for making sheet glass for use in windows. This invention ushered in the modern greenhouse, the architecture of which was spearheaded by Joseph Paxton. Paxton is most famous for his design of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851 (essentially one of the first World’s Fairs). His design was the culmination of experiments in greenhouse design based on the architecture of the huge leaves of the *Victoria regia* lily. Greenhouses were only one contributor to the orchid craze during the Victorian era when wealthy collectors indulged their passion for orchids by funding expeditions to collect plants (without care to habitat destruction) and held exhibitions where they could show off their collections. Sir George Holford had a huge exhibit at the Temple Orchid show of 1904, made possible by cutting flower spikes off before they bloomed for 3 years prior to the show.

Sir George Holford also bred orchids, including the hybrid *Cymbidium Alexanderi* (registered in 1911). The cultivar ‘Westonbrit’ is famous, and is in the lineage of many of today’s hybrids. The first *Odontoglossum* hybrid was *Oda Vuylstekeae*, registered in 1904. During the late 1800s, early 1900s, advances were made that enabled orchids seed germination. Noel Bernard, a French botanist, based on observation of an orchid growing under decaying wood in Fontainebleau forest, postulated that orchid seeds required

symbiotic fungus for germination. In 1922, Lewis Knudsen introduced asymbiotic culture, essentially growing seeds in a flask on nutrient rich medium. This allowed orchid breeding to be much more accessible. Now, in Taiwan, orchid farming is subsidized by the government. Orchids have gone from the conservatory, in Victorian times, to Costco.

Robert and John Leathers, share a 375 square-foot greenhouse in Berkeley and another (3250 square feet) in Pacifica (Hawk Hill Nursery). John grows and hybridizes predominantly *masdevallias*. Recent *masdevallia* hybrids he has made and registered include Robert Hamilton (2020), Devil's Heart, Royal Flush and Mayan Princess, the latter all of which were registered in 2022. He also grows *Draculas* including the species *Drac. vampira* and *Drac. gorgona*. *Draculas* are hard to grow, but John has made some crosses including *Dracula Raven*, registered in 2005 and *Dracula Maltese Falcon* (registered in 2012). John observed with his *Drac. Raven* seedlings, that those seedlings that grew on a rotten bench bloomed more quickly and with greater vigor than flask/pot grown seedlings, lending some credence to rumors that better plants come out of symbiotic culture.

Robert grows and hybridizes what were previously classified as *Odontoglossums*. *Odm. crispum* is one of the most important species in *Odontoglossum* hybridizing. Robert highlighted the following *Odm.* hybrids which are examples of the different patterns and colors in hybrid *Odontoglossums*. There is *Odm. Anne Grippe 'Tiffany'* and *Odm. Jim Mintsiveris*. The latter, registered in 1997 is one of the black and white *Odontoglossums*, so-called because of the white and very dark colors of the flowers. Robert noted that the dark portion of the flower grows at a different rate than the white, which is not an issue as long as the different color areas are broken up. *Oda. Murray River 'Golden Fire'* is an example of a cross between the (former) genera *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda*). Robert has made and registered several of these types of crosses including *Oda. Florence Stirling* and *Oda. Picotee*. Another cross of his is *Miltonidium Nova*. He buys flasks from the noted southern California *Odontoglossum* hybridizer, Robert Dugger. As he has a laboratory, Robert is able to do things like treat with an anti- mitotic to increase chromosome count from 2n to 4n. Initially he used colchicine, he now uses Oryzalin. He showed pictures of 2n and 4n examples of the species *Odm. hallii* and *Odm. veitchiana*. Increasing the ploidy tends to results in larger flowers with greater substance.

Robert talked some about the changes in taxonomy over the last several years, presumably due to DNA similarities, which has resulted in the former *Ondotoglossum* genera, among others, all being lumped together in the genera *Oncidium*. This has resulted in some mayhem in hybrid naming and genealogy. He does not support

this decision, and comments that by following this logic, humans and chimps should be in a single genera, given the genomic differences between the two are arguably comparable to those between *Odontoglossums* and *Oncidiums*.

Robert talked about *Odontoglossum* culture. *Odontoglossums* should be in the smallest pot possible. They don't like to be wet so water when on the dry side. He prefers to have the bulbs shrivel a bit rather than have the roots rot. For feeding, he recommends a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20. The trend now is to use a fertilizer lower in phosphorus based on the argument that anything you put in the plant that can't be used is a stress to the plant getting water. He feeds for two weeks then uses fresh water on the third week. He notes that *Odontoglossums* like a ten degree drop in temperature at night and are hardy down to 48 degrees.

Finally, Robert recommended the following free newsletter: <http://www.odontalliance.org>. It has an online archive of issues back to 1986.

We thank Robert for his interesting presentation.

Submitted by Patricia Olson



[*Oda. Florence Stirling*]



[*Dracula Raven*]



Masdevallia Robert Hamilton

April Opportunity Table





THANK YOU Bob
Hamilton and John
Leathers
for providing MOS with
the most generous array
of plants for our table!

Bob provided MOS with
many *odonto* hybrids
and more, and John with
masdevallias



W.I. Soul Fire on
opportunity table.
Raffle sales were
booming!!

AOS Corner, May 2022



CONGRATULATIONS to Paul and Phyllis
Chim, who entered their *Cymbidium*
Cranberry Velvet for judging last month, and
won the highest honor: a CCE/AOS, or a
Certificate of Cultural Excellence. This
stunning plant had 918 flowers and 76 buds
on 46 arching inflorescences! The plant was

equally beautiful 360 degrees around...pristine foliage, and really lovely
flowers. WOW!!

The spring Shows around the Bay Area have been a lot of fun, and a great
success for shoppers and vendors alike! I hope you took advantage of
opportunities to expand and improve your own Orchid collections.

FOUR MONTHLY AOS ORCHID JUDGINGS are Now Available:
Please wear a mask and respect social distancing.

PACIFIC JUDGING CENTER hosts two monthly:

The 1st Tuesday of each month, during the regular SFOS monthly meeting at
the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park AND the 3rd Saturday of each month at
Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA. NE
Questions? Contact James Heilig: heiligja@msu.edu

CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA Judging Center (CSNJC) hosts 2 monthly:

The 1st Wednesday of each month at Oddfellows Hall, 1831 Howe Ave, Sacramento AND the 3rd Sunday of each month at Dueling Dogs Brewing Company, 3030 Barrett Park Lane, Lincoln CA; Plant entry at 8am; judging starts at 8:30am. Questions? Contact Lynne Murrell: lynne.murrell@outlook.com

UPCOMING MONTHLY WEBINARS

The FREE twice-monthly Greenhouse Chat Webinars with Ron McHatton are a superb opportunity to get expert culture advice. Posted times below are EST. Click here to register: [aos webinars registration](#) and they will send you the link.

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

Lynne Murrell

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	May 04, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	May 17, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 7, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 28, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
Topic	The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids Pollination in the Orchid World	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Philippine <u>Bulbophyllums</u>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Doug Martin AOS Accredited Judge, Member-Native Orchid Conference	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jim Cootes	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

San Francisco Orchid Society Summer Sale

Orchids in the Park

July 30 & 31, 2022, 10-5 pm
San Francisco County Fair Bldg.
1199 9th Avenue, San Francisco

Orchids in the Park
San Francisco Orchid Society's
Summer Sale Event

July 30 & 31, 2022
10am to 5pm

San Francisco County Fair Building
1199 9th Avenue (near Lincoln Way)
Next to the SF Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park



Tickets will be available at the door and online from www.orchidsanfrancisco.org



April Show & Tell was spectacular - so fun to see Member's Blooming Creations!



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 May Show and Tell to marin.orchids@gmail.com

Click here to view:
[November Show & Tell](#)
[January Show & Tell](#)
[February Show & Tell](#)
[March Show & Tell](#)
[April Show & Tell](#)
[May Show & Tell](#)





RENEW YOUR 2022 MOS Membership

We enjoy you as a member of The Marin Orchid Society. Our members are the best; friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to share and to volunteer for MOS activities.

It is time to renew your membership for 2022. Marin Orchid Society membership is \$25 per household per year. MOS activities each year include: 10 meetings (7 or 8 of which feature great speakers, one which is devoted to our members), our Holiday Dinner and our member summer BBQ, plus one auction with great deals on orchids and other treasures. One meeting includes our member ice cream social/fun night.

Beyond that, we create award-winning displays at the Pacific Orchid Exposition and at the Marin County Fair when these events are operative. These are great opportunities for current members to display your orchids to huge crowds.

You can renew in a couple of ways:

- Mail your check, made out to "Marin Orchid Society", to Naoko Nojiri at: Marin Orchid Society, PO Box 14, Larkspur, CA 94977.

- Or you can do it online by going to: [Marin Orchid Society Membership form](#) Simply complete the form. You can even pay via PayPal.

Marin Orchid Society is a 501(c)3 organization so some portion of your membership (and donations to MOS) may be tax deductible (please check tax regulations).

Thank you for being an MOS member. We will see you at upcoming MOS events.



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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](#)



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
tperlite@gmail.com 415 467 3737



VectorStock.com/2500966

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

California Orchids, 515 Aspen Rd,

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

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

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, Terumi Leinow. You may reach the MOS Board by calling: 415-895-0667.

Next Board meeting is June 2, Virtual Zoom meeting, 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to attend with advance notice. Contact Ron for details.

2022 MOS Memberships are now due. Mail your check to: Marin Orchid Society | P. O. BOX 14, Larkspur, CA CA 94977.



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](#)
- [California Sierra Nevada Judging Center](#)

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- [AOS Judging Centers Nearby](#)



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.



2022 Marin Orchid Society Calendar

our meetings will continue to be Virtual until further notice

May 24: Virtual Meeting - Speaker Brandon Tam, Huntingdon Orchid Collection

June 28: Virtual Meeting - Speaker Carole Beule, Neofinitias in Japan

July 1-4: Marin County Fair (To Be Determined)

July 26: Virtual Meeting - Soeaker Melissa McCormick from Simithsonian Inst.

August 28: No regular meeting - summer BBQ

September 27: Virtual Meeting - Speaker TBD

October 25: Auction Night

November 23 Virtual Meeting - Speaker TBD

December 6: Holiday Dinner TBD

December 27: No regular meeting

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)



OTHER ORCHID SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

First Monday: Carmel Orchid Society meeting; The First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado Street, Monterey; [Carmel Orchid Society](#)

First Tuesday: San Francisco Orchid Society meeting; San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; [San Francisco Orchid Society](#)

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, Santa Maria.

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; [California Orchid Society](#)

Third Tuesday: Coastal Valley Orchid Society; Lompoc, CA; [Coastal Valley Orchid Society](#)

Third Friday: Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers meeting; San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo; Weegie Caughlan at goldcoastcymgrowers@gmail.com.

Second Friday: Napa Valley Orchid Society; 7:00 pm at Napa Senior Activities Center 1500 Jefferson St. Napa CA 94558. www.nv-os.org

Fourth Friday: Peninsula Orchid Society, 7:00 pm, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. [Peninsula Orchid Society](#)

[AOS Growing Tips for May/June](#)

[Donate Online](#)

[Contact](#)

