



Marin Orchid Society

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



MOS March 28, 2023, In-Person and Virtual Meeting,
7:00 p.m.

[Visit Our Website](#)

March President's Letter



Dear MOS Friends,

I'm off to the Santa Barbara Orchid Show on Thursday. Staying for one day to see exhibits and to shop. From there I visit my Kids. I hope that the weird weather we've been having will have eased and Highway 5 is open. Several years ago Highway 5 closed due to snow, diverted to 101 and it took 48 hours to drive home.

POE did not disappoint. Plenty of sellers that enticed me to purchase many new plants. I was surprised by the number of non-orchid plants for sale such as many species of staghorn ferns. It appears that staghorns are relatively easy to propagate. I may try to create a couple of cuttings off of my large plant in the yard. This resilient staghorn has survived drought, freezes, pouring rain, etc. that making additional copies would be a good idea.

While we did not win first place, our display at POE was really amazing. We had approximately 65 plants covering a wide variety of species. Three plants won four awards; congratulations to Susan Anderson, Judy Carney (2 awards), and Carolyn Fisher. Thank you to Naoko for the design, to Susan and Lynne for organizing the plants, and to all the volunteers who helped put the display together. A full list of all the participants appears elsewhere in this issue of the Back Bulb.

Daniel has completed setting up speakers for the remainder of the year. He has arranged for great speakers and most of them are new to our list of presenters. Well done, Daniel.

Please remember that the March and April meetings are live at Kol Shofar. The speaker for the March meeting will present from her location in Canada. Despite that, we felt it was important that we have a live meeting to help the members reestablish the important personal ties. I hope you'll join us for these meetings. An opportunity table will be available to entice those who are at the meeting: please note - cash & check only - (no credit cards) to purchase raffle tickets.

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.

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.

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

As visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings, please feel free to share the link to the meeting if they want to join remotely.

Ron

March 28: In-Person and Virtual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

We invite you to attend our Hybrid Meeting - an in-person meeting at Kol Shofar, 215 Blackfield Drive, Tiburon, combined with a Virtual Zoom Meeting.

Time: March Meeting officially starts at 7:00 pm PST. Those participating through Zoom - PLEASE join the Zoom meeting well ahead of time so that you are settled in. To join Zoom Meeting click here: [MOS March Zoom meeting](#)

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](#)

March Speaker - Jean Allen-Ikeson
Oncidium Fuscatum



Oncidium fuscatum was once known as *Miltonia warscewiczii* yet never quite fit that genus. It is one time that transfer to *Oncidium* due to DNA analysis was a win for everyone. Although it is a bit of an ugly duckling, it has proven to be an outstanding pedigree builder for the last 100 years through such hybrids as Irene, Wildcat and Catatante for adding red and a large lip to the progeny.

About the speaker:

Jean Allen-Ikeson lives outside Dundas, Ontario at the western tip of Lake Ontario in Canada. She is an accredited AOS judge in the Toronto Judging Centre, Chair of the Editorial Board of the AOS and National Education Coordinator of the AOS. She was awarded the Silver Medal in 2021 and the President's Award in 2022 by the AOS. She enthusiastically grows a variety of *Cattleyas*, *Oncidiinae*, *Cymbidiums*, *Dendrobiums* and *Sarcochilus* in her 1000 sq. ft. attached greenhouse.



Graham Ramsey - February Speaker Review Repotting with New Zealand's Finest

Our February speaker was the orchid enthusiast, hybridizer and exhibitor Graham Ramsey who spoke to us about 'Repotting with New Zealand's Finest'. Gordon began his talk reminding us that all orchids need light, water, appropriate temperature, and air movement. Unique to orchids is that they require air movement around the roots. Providing water and air movement to the roots was the basis for Graham's talk on three different growing mediums. He discussed three mediums: sphagnum moss, tree fern and orchid bark, specifically those from New Zealand (NZ) which he argues have benefits over those from other sources.

There are two New Zealand companies that are sources for sphagnum moss, Sphagmoss and One Mile Moss. Both companies source the moss from moss bogs. Graham argues that there are several reasons why these mosses are preferable to those from other sources. First, the species of moss is *Sphagnum cristatum* which has superior water holding capacity. The NZ

mosses are sustainably harvested and are subject to exceptional quality control (QC). The moss is graded by length but is otherwise the same. To repot *Neofinetia*, long strand moss is preferable whereas it isn't necessary for repotting *Phalaenopsis*. Finally, the NZ government is supportive of the industry facilitating the availability and reliability of the supply.

Graham next spoke about NZ tree fern which he thinks is such an exciting product that he has done a complete program just on it. Tree fern comes from a fern (sp. *Dicksonia*) that grows quite large and looks like a tree. The 'trunk' is comprised of fibrous intertwined rhizomes.

All NZ tree fern logs are harvested on private land. Harvesting is tightly regulated to ensure continuous and ample supply. The logs are taken to a sawmill where they are cut into boards and then sterilized by kiln drying. These boards cut into slabs are used for mounting orchids. The NZ tree fern boards are denser, retain water better and don't dry out as quickly as the less dense tree fern boards from central America. The NZ tree fern boards stay damp for 2-3 days depending on the growing environment and rewet easily. Graham recommends sticking with central American tree fern boards for mounting *cattleyas* and *phalaenopsis* which like to dry out quickly but for other epiphytes, he suggests using the NZ tree fern boards.

Another tree fern product Graham is really excited about is tree fern fiber. This product has the same source as the boards but is made by putting the logs through a grinder to get fiber and fines. Osmunda is the South American chopped up tree fern product and is much coarser than that from NZ. The NZ product is very absorbent. Graham has written several articles on NZ tree fern products - see AOS Orchids vol 87 #8, July 2018 and AOS Orchids vol 89 #10 Oct 2020 - links below. A benefit of the NZ tree fern product is that the *Dicksonia* species is a fibrous orchid friendly medium that holds more moisture and nutrients but decomposes very slowly. He has been using NZ tree fern for over 5 years and has seen no evidence of decomposition. NZ tree fern is sustainably harvested and is also the beneficiary of the NZ government being friendly to the industry.

Finally, Graham spoke about bark, specifically Orchiata. Orchiata is derived from pine radiata bark that is from Monterey pine which is widespread in California. Back in the mid-1800s, Monterey pine was discovered to grow like a weed in NZ. Now, it is a stable timber crop there, as it is 20 years from seedling to harvest. Furthermore, the bark was found to be a great orchid substrate. Now the tree wood is harvested for timber and the bark for orchid medium. Orchiata bark is processed by aging in wind rows under closely regulated heat so there is composting only at the outer surface. This results in a bark chip with a water absorbent outer surface but a water resistant inner surface. The bark chips are graded for size and tested for the presence of invertebrates. Dolomite is added to raise the pH to 6.5 before bagging and shipping to Arcadian Supply in Savannah, Georgia (US distributor).

Orchiata comes in 5 different sizes. The smallest is Precision which Graham finds useful for deflasked orchids and for growing small or delicate miniature orchids. He finds Classic useful for seedlings and for plants that he wants to keep damp. For example, he uses Classic for *Phragmipediums*. He repots *Phrags* every year; sometimes he waters them everyday when hot. For any of these, he recommends mixing in sponge rock, perlite and/or charcoal to help

maintain ventilation, particularly with the small bark sizes. Power is the middle of road bark, it can grow anything. Power Plus is useful for growing *Cattleyas* and *Phalaenopsis*. He uses the Super bark size instead of peanuts in the bottom of pots. When repotting, he takes the roots with the Super 'peanuts' and moves in the next pot, minimizing root disruption.

Graham addressed why Orchiata bark is better. It has a very hard physical structure. This is true for both Orchiata and Kiwi bark but whereas both have the same starting material, he is unaware whether the latter has been treated like Orchiata. Orchiata comes in five different sizes, and although it should be wetted before use, it is otherwise ready to go. Orchiata bark has been endorsed by the AOS as well.

Graham provided a few hints on use of these products. He never repots with dry sphagnum moss but soaks it in warm water for an hour or two, then drains it and squeezes out any excess water. For tree fern slabs, he completely submerges them for a few hours to fully hydrate before mounting plants. With shredded tree fern, he rinses out the fines. He typically doesn't add other media components to tree fern fiber or to sphagnum moss.

As noted above, Arcadian Supply (arcadiansupply.com) is the US distributor for these New Zealand orchid products. They do have an orchid society pallet program where societies can buy a pallet of materials at reduced cost.

We thank Gordon for an interesting and informative program.

Submitted by Patricia Olson



What is New Zealand Tree Fern Bark?

Here are two extensive articles from Graham Ramsey in back issues of AOS magazine for reference - click on link:

Repotting in NZ Tree Fern Fiber (10.20)

[Repotting in Tree Fern](#)

Sustainably Harvested Tree Fern (07.18)

[Sustainably Harvested](#)



AOS Corner March 2023



The AOS 2023 Spring Members Meeting will be held April 19-22 in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society show “Orchids of the Earth” in San Diego, CA. Join us in San Diego, CA.

Two days of great Orchid Speakers, AOS Judging (Friday - April 21) Orchid show at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, Town Hall & Members Meeting, Sunset Garden cocktail Reception, Live Auction and more. Full Schedule and Event Details Available at AOS.org: (click here) [AOS Spring Members' meeting information](#).

It's repotting season... as soon as those new, green root tips appear, it's time to get to work! Meanwhile, there are plenty of opportunities to purchase more Orchids for your collection!

2023 Shows, Plant Sales and other Events

- Napa Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale, March 18-19, Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Ave, Napa. AOS Judging Saturday morning 3/18.
- Sonoma County Orchid Show & Sale, April 1 & 2, at Santa Rosa Veteran's Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa. AOS Judging Saturday morning, 8am
- San Diego County Orchid Society's Show & Sale, April 21-23, at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 1650 El Prado, San Diego.
(Check their websites for further information)

MONTHLY AOS ORCHID JUDGINGS:

- Pacific Central Judging Center hosts 2 monthly: The first Tuesday evening (4/4/23), during the regular SFOS monthly meeting at the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. AND the third Saturday (4/15/23) at Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside CA. Questions? Contact James Heilig, heiligja@msu.edu
- California Sierra Nevada Judging Center (CSNJC) upcoming judgments – the first Wednesday evening (4/5/23), during the regular SCOS monthly meeting at Odd Fellows Hall, 1831 Howe Ave, Sacramento. And the 3rd Sunday morning in Lincoln CA. 4/16/23 at Dueling Dogs Brewing, 3030 Barrett Park Lane, Lincoln. Questions? Contact Lynne Murrell: lynne.murrell@outlook.com

Until we meet again, hopefully SOON at one of the Shows, here's to great growing in 2023.

Lynne Murrell
Your AOS Representative

March Show & 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 March Show and Tell to marin.orchids@gmail.com

Click here to view:
2022

[May Show & Tell](#)

[June Show & Tell](#)

[July Show & Tell](#)

[September Show & Tell](#)

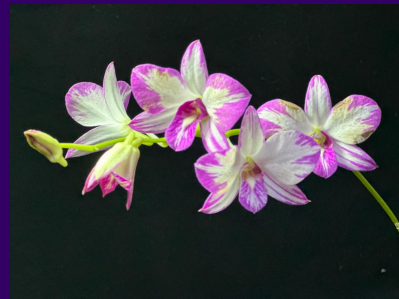
[October Show & Tell](#)

[November Show & Tell](#)
2023

[January Show & Tell](#)

[February Show & Tell](#)

[March Show & Tell](#)



Marin Orchid Society Display at 2023 POE



Once again, MOS
dazzling display at POE
2023

Thank you to MOS
members who
contributed their
beautiful orchids and
the numerous helpers.



Construction, set up and
take down - thank you
to Ron Ludwig & 4
legged companion, and
Brian Beard. Also Maria
Gregoriev for plant
preparation and more.



Creative Designers:
Naoko Nojiri - Display;
Lynne Murrell & Susan
Anderson, artful orchid
placements.



Congratulations to The Winners!



Carolyn Fisher proudly
displaying her award
winning plant.



Susan Anderson and
Judy Carney also took



Thank you to MOS members who contributed plants: Paul Chim, Lynne Murrell, Carolyn Fisher, Tom Pickford, Susan Anderson, Maria Gregoriev and Judy Carney.

home awards.



ORCHID SHOWS

Sonoma County Orchid Society - Spring Orchid Show & Plant Sale, April 1 & 2

Learn orchid care with an expert!
11:00 am Saturday & Sunday - How to Grow & Bloom your Orchid.
1:00 pm Saturday & Sunday - Growing & Repotting Cymbidiums.
 Hardy outdoor orchids for beginners and experts.
2:00 pm Saturday - Growing orchids outdoors in the Bay Area.



Thousands of orchids available to buy from orchid growers & SCOS members
Admission: \$10 Adults, 12 & under free



NAPA VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY 28th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

- Quality Blooming Orchids
 Wide Variety of Orchids and other Plants
- Orchid Care Supplies
 - Judged Orchid Displays
 - Orchid Care Demonstrations
 - Orchid Doctor
 - Raffles

Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St. NAPA

FREE ADMISSION
 For more info call (707) 738-4128 or (707) 484-5138

Saturday, March 18, 10-4
Sunday, March 19, 10-3:30



RENEW YOUR 2023 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 2023. 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: [click here - Marin Orchid Society Membership Form](#) Simply complete the form and mail it in.

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.



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 Alpine Rd,
Menlo Park, CA



VectorStock.com/2309966

D&D Flowers, 169 First Ave., Daly
City, CA

brookside-orchids.com 650 854 3711

d.olivas@comcast.net 925 969 1246

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

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

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

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

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



MOS Board of Directors - Join Us!

President - Ron Ludwig, 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 April 6, Virtual Zoom meeting, 7:00 pm. Members are welcome to attend with advance notice. Contact Ron for details.

2023 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.



2023 Marin Orchid Society Calendar

March 28: In-Person Hybrid Meeting, Jean Allen-Ikeson
April 25: In-Person Hybrid Meeting, Jeff Trimble
May 23: Virtual Meeting, David Edgeley
July 25: In-Person Hybrid Meeting, Patricia Harding
September 26: In-Person Hybrid Meeting, Chenhao Hsu

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 Avenue, 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](#)

[March/April Growing Tips](#)

[Donate Online](#)

[Contact](#)



Marin Orchid Society | P. O. BOX 14, Larkspur, CA 94977

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