



# Marin Orchid Society

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



MOS July 25, 2023, In-Person and Virtual Meeting,  
7:00 p.m.

Visit Our Website

## July President's Letter



Dear MOS Friends,

The Marin County Fair is over. We've taken down the display and I'm now crashing. It's been quite a busy several weeks getting that together. The Fair was great fun; MOS did 10 presentations over the 5 days. There is a write up elsewhere in this edition of the Back Bulb. Here is a link to the photos: [Marin County Fair photos](#).

In my last letter I was heading to SoCal for my granddaughter's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. That was quite an event with 30+ kids plus parents. Everyone had a great time - a big hit being the bouncy house they rented for the party.

I also spent time with my grandson dissecting an owl pellet. He is interested in science so pulling the bits of a mouse (we think) from the digestive remnants of the dinner of one of the local great horned owls living in the trees around my home was great fun for him.

I am converting my yard to a more bee and butterfly friendly environment. I seeded the lawn with clover that has begun to flow in the lawn .... And a PILE of bees taking advantage of it. The bees are still enjoying the blackberries. There's more ripening and a lot of flowers left for them to pollinate. Last year I had a good crop of these tasty berries. This year's crop has doubled.

That's assuming I don't lose a lot to the squirrels and birds.

Almost all of my orchids have completed their blooms. There is one *Cymbidium* on my carport that still has one very healthy inflorescence and the one in the yard that is just starting its bloom now. One *Oncidium* in the house is starting a new bloom cycle; the second one this year. I also have a *Pleurothallis* starting to bloom. It looks like that will have yellow flowers.

We are working on a get-together for 19 August. You'll shortly receive an email to sign up so we know how many will attend. Please look for that email and respond as quickly as you can.

MOS will host the July meeting. The presenter will be remote but we will meet at Kol Shofar. And, as usual, we will also Zoom our meeting for those of you who are unable to attend in person. We will have an opportunity table at the July meeting.

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 meeting, please feel free to do so. We'd love for you to bring your beautiful plants to the meeting for Show and Tell.

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

Ron

## July 25 - Hybrid Meeting (In-Person & Zoom) 7:00 p.m.

We are happy to resume In-person meetings on a regular monthly basis at Kol Shofar, 215 Blackfield Drive, Tiburon, combined with a Virtual Zoom Meeting.

Time: July 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 July 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

## July Speaker - Patricia Harding Epidendrum/Encylia/Prosthechea



Patricia Harding will be giving a talk about *Epidendrum*, *Encyclia*, and *Prosthechea*. She will show what separates the genera morphology wise, but also separates them cultivation wise (how you grow them). She will also discuss the taxonomy of *Prosthechea* with new updates on its status as a genus and the various groups within the genus. Lots and lots of pictures.

Patricia studied Botany as an undergraduate at Oregon State University but the economy at the time provided no jobs in Botany, so she became a medical doctor with a family practice in Lebanon, Oregon. When she retired from medicine she returned to Botany, especially the part she found the most fascinating--taxonomy. She also started the AOS judging program in the Pacific North West region.

Now, she does orchids, as a writer, traveler, photographer and observer, with a little orchid growing on the side. She co authored with Carl Withner a book segregating out the sections of *Prosthechea*.



**MARIN COUNTY FAIR - MOS DISPLAY AND  
PRESENTATIONS: Ron Ludwig**



Marin Orchid Society presented an excellent display at the 2023 Marin County Fair. While the Fair had a theme of “Electrifying”, our display was themed as an educational experience. The goal was to provide the viewers with not only the beauty and variety of the blooms orchids can produce but also to expose them to the variety of plants, mounts, and fragrances of the plants. We did not display only flowering plants. We had some plants carried on unusual mounts (one on a racquetball paddle and one mounted on a clay roofing tile). There were a couple of *Vandas* which really are not grown on anything. And there were some on the standard cork mounts and a couple in baskets.

We had 8 fragrant plants surprising visitors who thought that there were no scented orchids. A couple of the fragrant ones were kind of failures. One was night fragrant and the *Bulbophyllum* just refused to give up its scent. The others were a big hit. The large *Brassia* was especially interesting because we then had some who could detect a scent and others who could not.

The display also included a popular hands-on section. Especially fun for the kids. Debra had found some Vanilla Paste. As the presentations included a short bit on Vanilla being an orchid, we had not only the seed pods for people to see and touch but also a tasting section for the Vanilla Paste.

Tara, the person responsible for the design of the exhibit hall, was very generous with her time and really allowed us to design the entire display and presentation area. We placed our display along one wall 16' wall and the presentation area immediately adjacent to the display. The display was framed by a large opening in the wall forming the main aisle through the exhibit hall so everyone walking up that aisle saw our display in a way that caught their attention.

This placement of the presentation area fit in with using the display as an educational tool. I was able to pull plants and materials from the display during the presentations I did. Not only did that give presenters a wealth of materials but also drew the attention of those in the audience to the display.

MOS was really the only presenters (there were 2 cookie decorating presentations as well) in the exhibit hall. We had 2 presentations each day of the Fair. For the eight I did, almost all were standing room only (seating for 48).

We were also successful in obtaining 9 new members during the Fair. Below the people who helped make this Marin Orchid Society display such a success. Thank you to Pat and Barbara for doing two of the presentations. Thank you to everyone who contributed plants, time, energy, etc. and all who helped make this a very successful opportunity for us.

Setup and Take Down: Brian Beard, Susan Anderson, Cathy Thompson, Maria Gregoriev, Lynne Murrell, Debra Guajardo, Ron Ludwig  
Plants: Susan Anderson, Lynne Murrell, Tom Pickford, Patricia Olson, Carolyn Fisher, Barbara Herod, Maria Gregoriev, Ron Ludwig  
Presenters: Patricia Olson, Barbara Herod, Ron Ludwig  
Photographers: Brian Beard, Debra Guajardo, Ron Ludwig  
Display Minders: Brian Beard, Carolyn Fisher  
Member Sign Up: Debra Guajardo  
Exhibit Consultant: Tara Roberts



## AOS Corner July 2023

### Upcoming and noteworthy:

[July 29-30 Orchids in the Park](#), San Francisco Orchid Society's Summer Sale event. SF County Fair Building, 1199 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (near Lincoln Way, next to the SF Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park. Check SFOS' website for the Members' Pre-sale, which opens 7/17.

[September 21-23, International Phalaenopsis Alliance Fall Symposium](#), Embassy Suites Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento. 5 guest speakers and growers (including from Taiwan).

**August care for your Orchids:** The heat and high light of summer have many of your Orchids in strong growth mode; this means more frequent fertilizer, to fuel the growth. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer is the best way to ensure future blooms. I have made a resolution to fertilize "weekly, weakly" EVERY week for the months of July, August, and into September.

There is one more AOS Webinar in July, then they will take the month of August off. The Webinars are FREE, but you need to register on the AOS website, so they can send you the link to join the events.

## MONTHLY AOS ORCHID JUDGINGS:

Pacific Central Judging Center hosts 2 monthly: The first Tuesday evening (8/1/23), during the regular SFOS monthly meeting at the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park AND the third Saturday (8/19/23) at Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside CA. Questions? Contact James Heilig, [heiligja@msu.edu](mailto:heiligja@msu.edu)

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center (CSNJC) hosts 2 monthly - the first Wednesday evening (9/2/23), during the regular SCOS monthly meeting at Odd Fellows Hall, 1831 Howe Ave, Sacramento. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning in Lincoln CA. 8/20/23 - 9am which will be a special event at Ciotti Winery with the Sacramento Orchid Society, 6pm at 3285 Crosby Herold Rd, Lincoln CA Questions? Contact Lynne Murrell: [lynne.murrell@outlook.com](mailto:lynne.murrell@outlook.com)


Until we meet again, here's to the warm evenings of summer.

Lynne Murrell  
Your AOS Representative



### Beautiful Soft-leaved Orchids

Tim Culbertson

 Thursday, July 20th, 2023  
8:30 PM EST

Join Tim Culbertson as he takes us on a tour of lovely orchids that we don't typically see in collections. These easily-grown genera include Pescatorea, Cochleanthes, Bollea, and Huntleya.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

## July Show & Tell In-Person Meetings & Live Show & Tells

Show and Tell



Here are links to past few months of MOS Members Show & Tell. Thank you for your submissions. Submit up to three for June Show and Tell to [marin.orchids@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)
- [April Show & Tell](#)
- [May Show & Tell](#)
- [June Show & Tell](#)
- [July Show & Tell](#)



**Cymbidium Repotting  
Lynne Murrell**



At our MOS June 27 meeting, Lynne gave a presentation on how to repot *Cymbidiums*. Here are "A Few Tips from the June 27 Demonstration".

**WHY** do we repot *Cymbidiums*? To refresh the potting medium before it breaks down into icky mush, which weakens the plant. And to divide them so they are easier to manage...and so you can share a division with a friend.

**WHEN** to repot? Every 3 or 4 years. If your *Cyms* are protected from heavy rainfall; every 2 to 3 years, if they live where they get full rain all winter. NOT longer, or the plant will begin to decline because the bark has composted into mush. You'll know if you've waited too long, because the center bulbs will die back (meaning that the roots in the center of the root ball have drowned and died). Remember, the longer you wait, the more difficult the job is!

### Tools to make the job easier:

**Rubber mallet** to tap (or whack) the edge of the pot, to release it from the root ball.

**Strong poker**- You can make one by removing the 2 side prongs of a 3-pronged garden hand rake (be sure to sterilize this poker with your torch between each plant).

**Cutting tool** to divide the root ball- I used a sturdy, serrated steak knife on Ron's *Cyms*, but a larger plant may require a hand saw, a Saws-All, or a chain saw (yes really!), depending on the size and compaction of the root ball.

**Cinnamon** to put on the cuts you make. Put it into a squeeze bottle, so you can aim it at your target. A squeeze bottle like those used in restaurants for catsup, or a plastic pastry decorating bottle, will work great. Apparently no bacteria or virus known to man, can survive in cinnamon.



## Q&A:

**What medium should I use to repot?** Fir Bark is ideal... medium or large-size bark drains better than fine bark...and good drainage is critical so the roots stay aerated, and don't rot. Optional additions to the bark: horticultural charcoal (not chemically treated briquettes!) will keep the medium fresher. Perlite or clay pellets will keep the bark more open, again...better drainage.

**Is it okay to cut excess roots?** Absolutely! I cut off the bottom half of the roots on Ron's second plant. It's important to cut and remove mushy roots in the center of the root ball...they will just decay and cause the medium to break down more quickly (which means you will need to repot more often.)

**Should I remove dead pseudobulbs?** YES! All divisions you make should have a minimum of THREE viable pseudobulbs. If they are brown (and/or mushy), they have served their purpose (acting as storage tanks for water and nutrients); they will not generate new roots or new growth, and they should be removed. Green (viable) pseudobulbs with no leaves can be removed as well...they can be made to root and produce new plants. Just be sure to keep 3 bulbs per division.

**How large a pot should I use?** Not too big! Now that you've divided the plant and cut off those old roots, the new pot should have just enough room for a couple years of growth. WAIT!! Don't be tempted to put it into a BIG pot, thinking you won't need to re-pot as often. A larger pot holds too much bark, which will just retain more water, which rots the medium and the roots more quickly. Any plastic or UN-glazed clay pot is fine (glazing prevents air circulation). The pot should have plenty of good drainage holes in the bottom, and you can poke additional holes in the side of the pot, to provide better air movement around the roots. The faster the bark dries out between waterings, the better for the roots...and the longer the medium will last.

**How do I keep snails and slugs out of my pots?** Keep pots elevated off the ground! Just 4 or 5" will make a huge difference, and very importantly, your plants will drain better, so the potting medium doesn't stay soaking wet (which causes it to decompose faster). Your plants will be SO much healthier if you raise them off the ground. If you do have slugs & snails in your pots... you'll know, cuz you'll find chew-holes in your buds, flowers, and even the tender new leaves... and meanwhile they are invisibly munching on those new root tips inside the pot! I recommend CAFFEINE, which you can find on Amazon. Just dilute the contents of a 100mg capsule in a pint of water. Spray it on the critters, and drench the medium. I'm told caffeine gives them a heart attack (boo hoo...NOT!). And it won't harm your plant. You can use Slugg-O, or similar products; I prefer to avoid poisons, for the health of the environment and my inquisitive puppy.

**What about feeding my Cyms:** YES, DO IT! Any garden fertilizer will work. Read the directions, and make a half-strength dilution. (Never sprinkle dry fertilizer onto the medium, as it can cause root-burn.) Any all-purpose fertilizer will work fine; I use MaxSea 16-16-16, available at most nurseries. Orchid fertilizers are more expensive...and Cyms really aren't that fussy! Every 2 weeks or so during growing season is all it takes for bigger,

stronger plants...which means more and bigger flowers. And that is the goal, right??

**What about Epsom Salt?** Yes, good old Dr Teal's Epsom Salt (Magnesium sulfate) is excellent ...and inexpensive at any pharmacy. Not as a replacement for fertilizer, because it doesn't have all of the nutrients your plants need. But a ½ Cup of Epsom Salt diluted in a gallon of water, once in the spring and once again in early summer is ideal. The magnesium in the Epsom Salt makes for sturdier, more turgid leaves...instead of long, weak leaves.

Food for thought: More Orchids die from OVER-watering, than from UNDER-watering.

I think that about covers it. Happy growing, and happy flowering!

Lynne



## ORCHIDS IN THE PARK HALL OF FLOWERS, GOLDEN GATE PARK JULY 29-30, 2023

Thousands of breathtaking and unusual orchids on display and for sale. Whether you're an experienced grower or new to orchids, you'll find something to delight and amaze you. Come for a unique experience and be inspired!

### Featuring:

- Local and international vendors
- Dazzling orchid displays
- Demonstrations on successfully growing orchids in the Bay Area
- Companion plants
- Tropical plants
- Orchid supplies
- Kids Corner activities, for the young and young at heart!
- Docent tours (large groups welcome)
- Orchid Doctor on call to answer your questions





## Marin Orchid Society Summer BBQ Party Saturday, August 19, 2023 Seven Flags MHP Club, Sonoma, CA

**Details to Follow**



## International Phalaenopsis Alliance Fall Symposium, Sept. 21-23, 2023

Embassy Suites, Riverfront Promenade, 100  
Capitol Mall, Sacramento. Speakers line-up with  
experts from Washington state, California and  
Taiwan. Plus an IPA action to acquire the finest,  
cutting edge hybrids and more!

[Symposium details](#)



## 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.

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**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  
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  
flori-culture 916 333 4885



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

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

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## **MOS Board of Directors - Join Us!**

President - Ron Ludwig, Treasurer - Naoko Nojiri, Vice President, Alicia A Taylor, 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 July 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](mailto: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](http://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

July 25: Hybrid Meeting, Patricia Harding

August 19, MOS BBQ Party

September 26: Hybrid Meeting, Chenhao Hsu

October 28: In-Person Meeting, Auction Night

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.nv-os.org)

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

[July/August Growing Tips](#)

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