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The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Monthly Newsletter

January 2011

Join us! San Rafael Corporate Center, Tuesday, January 25, 7 PM.
Orchid Doctor at 6:30; Virus / Water Testing, if Requested in Advance

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Dear BackBulb,

There is so much happening this month, including an adventuresome program (Adam Anderson talking about exploring for orchids in Borneo, AKA night hiking on steep trails!), planning and preparing for the annual MOS display at the Pacific Orchid Expo, plus Glenn Smith speaking on caring for unusual orchids starting on February 5 in Marin (details below). And the President's letter contains the details about our superb new (and former!) meeting location.

President's Corner: *MOS starts the New Year in a NEW VENUE!*



San Rafael Corporate Center

Regarding POE, our show chairwoman, Mary Ann Aleandri, has held one planning meeting and a second one is scheduled at Mary Ann's home on January 8 at 2 PM. Details are found below. Please RSVP to [Mary Ann](#).

Sandra Merlo, Back Bulb Editor

Monthly Meeting: On Tuesday, January 25, MOS members meet in the Tamalpais Room, San Rafael Corporate Center, 750 LINDARO ST. in SAN RAFAEL (close to Hwy 101). See you there in our bigger, brighter, air conditioned new location!

January 2011 Program

The Board is pleased to announce that Marin Orchid Society is moving back to the San Rafael Corporate Center at 750 Lindaro Street, Tamalpais Room, starting with our January 25 meeting. We've enjoyed the Falkirk estate for the last 6

Adam Anderson on Exploring for Orchids in Borneo.

Who knew that locating orchids in the steaming jungles of Borneo would involve hiking up and up and (occasionally) down steep trails, even at night, hoping to see some of the elusive Paphiopedilums in their native habitats? And taking care not to injure any of the orchids growing in the National Park. Would he encounter a perfect specimen of *Paphiopedilum sandermanum*, with petals purportedly a meter long? Said to be the "Holy Grail"

months, but we're growing, and we need more space for all of us, our speakers, our Orchids and our paraphernalia.

Linda Tripp identified this wonderful opportunity for us to move to the San Rafael Corporate Center, to take advantage of:

- a larger room, with better lighting
- easier access (no stairs)
- better, lighted parking
- more bathrooms
- air conditioning
- and the facility will do the room set-up and take-down for us...

...all for about the same price as we have been paying. Thank you, Linda!

San Rafael Corporate Center is just a block off Highway 101, across from the Transit Center, in central San Rafael. Many of you will recall that MOS met there 4 or 5 years ago, before the building was sold and we moved to MAGC.

We look forward to seeing you on January 25: 6:30 for the Orchid Doctor and visiting with friends. The meeting will start at 7pm sharp, and you won't want to miss this exciting trip to Borneo with Adam Anderson. Don't forget to bring your blooming Beauties for Show and Tell.

Here's to a prosperous and healthy 2011, filled with peace and beautiful Orchids.

Lynne

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Thank you Elsa Weissenberg for renewing your membership fo 2011.

of orchids, it was discovered in 1885, then not seen again until 1978!



Adam Anderson

Did MOS member and daring adventurer survive the humidity and temperatures? Yes and yes, and he will share his adventures. Come learn about the orchid parents and grandparents of some of our favorite ladies' slippers.

Borneo, the world's third largest island, is home to a wide variety of orchid habitats, including lowland dipterocarp rainforests of Mulu as well as the mountain cloud forests of Mount Kinabalu. Orchids are not the only thing to see in Borneo. Markets abound and restaurants and shops are often open air, providing excellent photo opportunities.

When not in remote locations hunting for orchids, Adam cares for plants in his two greenhouses in Novato. He has graciously provided a temporary home for the orchids that were Bob Crowder's.

There will be an opportunity table from Bob Crowder's orchid collection.

Note: No dinner with the speaker this month.

Show & Tell: Bring in your blooming orchids for a special drawing for the first pick of the Opportunity table! Sign up on the Show and Tell sheet on the display table for publication in the Back Bulb. Reminder: List the genus and species legibly.

Refreshments: Coffee and dessert will be served. If your last name begins with **D through H**, please bring a dessert around 6:30 pm so we can set it up for the meeting. Members who bring a dessert will be given a free strip of raffle tickets.

Directions to San Rafael Corporate Center:

From 101S:

Exit 452 toward Central San Rafael, continue straight onto Hetherton St., take the 3rd right onto 3rd St., turn left onto Lindaro St. (just past Ritter). Corporate Center is just beyond 2nd St.

From 101N:

Take Exit 452 toward Central San Rafael, turn slight right onto Irwin St., then left onto 3rd St., then left onto Lindaro St. (just past Ritter). (Note: 3rd St. is one way West, 2nd St. is one way East.)

Quite a few memberships expired at the end of 2010! We look forward to seeing you in 2011. Please use the form at the bottom of the newsletter to renew your membership for another year. Uncertain? Ask Bill Lenarz..

MOS Board of Directors

**President: Lynne Murrell
457-0836**

**Vice-President: Susan
Anderson (707) 762-2917**

**Treasurer: Bill Lenarz
457-1642**

**Secretary: Ron Ludwig
Editor: Sandra Merlo
342-9110**

**Web Master: John Merlo
342-9115**

**Member at Large:
Gail Beach**

**Community Education
Committee Chair: Glenn
Smith 457-2538**

Quick Links...

[Marin Orchid Society](#)
[American Orchid Society](#)
[San Francisco Orchid Society](#)
[Pacific Orchid Expo](#)
[Online Orchid Species
Identification](#)

AOS Membership A Plus



What are the benefits of joining the

POE 2011: Natural Wonders



Pacific Orchid Expo 2011

With natural wonders, POE returns to a theme that can be interpreted in both a visual and an educational way. More than 150,000 orchids will be presented in ways that will fire our curiosity. Explanations of the complex floral structure, the intricate pollination methods, and the wonderful ways orchids

have adapted to broad habitats and climates will be included.

WHO: The San Francisco Orchid Society

WHAT: The 59th Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition

WHERE: Fort Mason Center, San Francisco CA

WHEN: March 3-6, 2011

HOURS:

Thursday, March 3: Gala Benefit Preview, 6:30-10:00 pm

Friday, March 4: 10 am - 6 pm

Saturday, March 5: 9 am - 6 pm

Sunday, March 6: 10 am - 5 pm

COST:

Gala Benefit: \$35 advance/online and \$40 at the door (includes wine glass and tastings)

General Admission:

\$12 online/\$14 at the door, Seniors (65+): \$8 online/\$10 at the door

Children 12 and under are free (except for Preview night)

INFO: Call 415.665.2468 or visit the website [POE 2011](#).

Let's Create Another Outstanding MOS Display!

POE 2011 is just around the corner and we really appreciate your help to create another outstanding display, as those that we have become known for!

Those who help with the display get a free pass into POE!!

There are several ways that you can help:

- Please come to our POE meetings to help plan and create the display - next meeting is Saturday, January 8 at 2 PM at my home: 2 Stasia Dr., Novato. Let me know if you

American Orchid Society (AOS) when there is so much good orchid information on the internet and in our local area? What do we get out of our \$65 (\$80 joint) membership?

We might take a tip from a fairly new AOS member and orchid hobbyist, Laura DeCarlo of Florida. When she started to send in her check for \$65, her non-hobbyist husband suggested she spend \$15 more for a joint membership! He believed the added value would benefit both of them.

Over the year, Laura kept track and realized that the AOS membership helped her win a best of show ribbon, impressed her friends, and saved the couple \$1321. How so?

First, she credits the gorgeous and helpful magazine that itself is worth more than the membership. The 12 magazines and supplements are full of advice. She pores over each issue and learns enough to impress her orchid friends.

Second, the AOS website's members only section is a treasure trove of orchid information. Here a member can get answers from experts he or she would likely never meet. Need info about water quality, pests, growing conditions, and more? This is where it is at, organized in a way you will never find on the internet. A new hobbyist can become an award winning grower just by using the valuable information on the website. Laura calls it an "insider's pass" to quality growing.

Killing fewer plants has saved her thousands and she has done this just by following AOS information.

Third, an unlimited pass for free and discounted entry into more than 200 botanical gardens in North America!

When you go to join, look for the two-year special coupon that gives you \$30 off your order from many reputable orchids, including some in the Bay Area. Go to:

[Save with 2-year AOS membership](#)

plan to come: Maleandri@comcast.net. Or 415 408-3281.

- **Set up** is Wednesday, March 2. We usually get there at 12 noon to start building the display. Members deliver their orchids all afternoon and evening. We'll need lots of help the whole time. We usually finish setting up the display (hopefully) by 9 or 10 PM.
- **Tear down** is Sunday, March 6 at 6 PM.

MOST IMPORTANT: We can't have a display without orchids! Please plan on bringing your orchids to show at POE! (And plan on entering them for judging, too!) In the next newsletter, Mary Ann will share some tips on how to prepare your beauties for showing!

Also, to those who had such good ideas and offers of help at the last meeting, please contact Mary Ann because she was unable to take notes at that time and want to be sure not to miss out on those opportunities.

MOS is so proud of its members who grow such beautiful orchids in their homes and in greenhouses. This display represents YOU and how special you are.

A special thanks to our MOS Show Chair, Mary Ann Aleandri!

Glenn Smith, Tom Perlite: Classes on Orchids



Glenn Smith

Glenn, MOS Continuing Education

Committee Chairman, will present a series of orchid-care seminars at Sloat Garden Centers in Marin and San Francisco while Tom Perlite covers Orchid Basics at San Francisco Sloat Centers.

Caring for Unusual Orchids.

Glenn Smith discusses caring for Unusual Orchids, that is, orchids other than Phalaenopsis and Dendrobium. He will

cover topics such as light, warmth, and repotting, for both novices and more experienced growers.

Feb. 2 - San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm

Feb. 5 - Mill Valley ((behind Marin Theater Co., off Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am

Feb. 6 - Novato, Sun., 10 am

Feb. 12 - San Rafael, Lincoln Ave., Sat., 10 am

Feb. 13 - Kentfield (foot of Wolfe Grade), Sun., 10 am

Orchid Basics 101

The \$30 discount can be applied to your purchase at POE and similar shows as well as by mail order. Plus, you get to save on shipping.

Let's honor AOS with our local memberships and take advantage of the rewards we get back.

Newsletter Contributions

The Back Bulb wants your contributions of pictures of your orchid flowers. Include the name of the orchid and any other information you would like to share about it (culture, origin, growing tips, curiosities).

Also, articles, events, news and subjects of interest to our orchid loving members are always welcome!

Give a CD to Sandra Merlo at the monthly meeting, or email marin.orchids@gmail.com by the 1st of each month for publication in the next Back Bulb.

Show and Tell

Bring your blooming orchids for our January Show and Tell. Remember that one of those who brings plants gets first pick from the Opportunity Table!

THANK YOU!

DUES are DUE!

... and even overdue for some members. Ways to tell if your membership has expired: For snail mail: the expiration date on your label

Tom Perlite talks about how to fertilize and repot orchids.
Feb. 6 - San Francisco (Third Ave.), Sun., 10 am
Feb. 13 - San Francisco (Pierce St.), Sun., 10 am

Repotting Orchid Demonstrations

Our staff demos how to repot various orchids.
Feb. 8 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Tues., 10 am
Feb. 8 - San Francisco (Sloat Blvd), Tues., 10 am

There is a fee is \$5 for each class (Gardener's Reward Program members attend for free): participants receive a 10% off coupon for redemption at any Sloat locations.

It is important to call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat because attendance is limited. For more information, check out: [Sloat Garden Centers](#)

MOS Holiday Dinner at The Seafood Peddler

We enjoyed delicious entrees of chicken, beef, and baked salmon at this beautiful San Rafael restaurant. Our tables were arrayed in a U-shape so that we could see each other. Needless to say, the gift exchange was riotous as our selected gifts were passed right, left, right, right, left ... and ended up with a member a few steps away! "Oh no!" was mixed with "Ah!," shrieks interspersed with gleeful chuckles. It was great fun to visit with some of our members emeritus who do not come to all the meetings. Appropriately, most of the gifts were actually ... orchids! As we passed them along during the gift exchange, we each got to enjoy each and every one.

Two MOS members, Susan Anderson and Ron Ludwig, received president's awards for their outstanding contributions to MOS in 2010. Susan organized many events, handled speaker rotation, and lent what seemed like three hands for POE, the Marin County Fair, and the auctions. Ron not only created an orchid-

display stand for POE and the Fair, but also went way beyond to ensure that setup at POE and the Fair was complete, came early, left late, and headed up our outdoor meeting when it was too warm to be inside Falkirk! Both Ron and Susan helped organize Bob Crowder's collection and Ron also created an annotated spreadsheet of Bob's orchids. Thank you from all of us!



*Susan and Ron Receive
President's Awards*

Many thanks to Sandra Merlo for organizing the venue and the food and to Lynne, Susan, Sandra, and John Merlo for decorating

is outlined in red.
For email, you will receive a reminder postcard.

Please renew your membership today! Together, we add quality to orchid cultivation and awareness.

Your current membership ensures you will receive your next issue of the Back Bulb. Use the membership form at the bottom of the newsletter.

WANT TO TRADE OR SELL ORCHIDS???

Please bring any orchid you want to trade or sell to the meeting. (For each sale, 20% commission goes to MOS.)

For publication in the Back Bulb, send the plant name, description and a picture (if you have it) by the 7th of the month to the editor at: marin.orchids@gmail.com.

Upcoming Board of Directors' Meeting

February 3 at 6:30 pm at Lynne Murrell's home. Board meetings are open to all members to observe. If you want to attend, please give Lynne a call for directions.

Docents and Jungle Guides Needed at the SF Conservatory of Flowers

and bringing our delicious desserts. Judging from the laughter heard, everyone had a lot of fun as they caught up with old friends and made new ones. And, of course, we got to take home a new orchid or orchid-related gift to enjoy in 2011 and beyond. What a great start for 2011!

REPOTTING FOR BETTER GROWING *Already Thinking About it?* *Take Advantage of Mary Ann's Experience*

Over the summer and fall, I repotted all of my orchids ... over 400 (I lost count). Our editor asked me to share my experiences because I am using the redwood bark that Tom Perlite discussed.

For those who did not know, I was an avid fan of a potting mix names Aussie Gold and I used it almost exclusively. (I sometimes I used sphagnum moss and still use it.) While I had amazing results using Aussie Gold when I grew indoors, I ran into problems growing in my greenhouse. My fault really; I just could not stop watering every week! In the higher humidity of my greenhouse, the poor roots were kept just a little too wet. Not so wet that they did not survive, but wet enough that they did not thrive. To remedy the situation, I repotted almost everything (except for those who loved that moisture) in Rexius Bark, medium or small, depending on the type of roots. Even all my bare-root Vandaceous orchids went into bark.

I have also been experimenting with gorilla hair (shredded redwood bark that can be cheaply bought at any landscape company). I really like it; so far it is working well. I have a couple of small Cattas, a couple of Oncidiums, and a couple of Bulbos in the stuff. All are doing okay. We'll see what summer brings. I don't want to have to water more than once or twice a week, so I may go back to moss for some; time will tell and I will report the results later in the growing season.

Because I was worried about the orchids being too dry compared to their previous medium, I added diatomite to the bark and to the gorilla hair. (I also added a little charcoal.) The neat thing about the diatomite is that the water it holds evaporates out of it s-l-o-w-l-y without keeping a whole lot of wet at the roots. I used roughly a 1 to 5 mix of diatomite to bark. For the gorilla hair, I lined the bottom of the pot with diatomite, depending on how much moisture that orchid likes.

I am happy to report that all my hard work (and it really was, although a labor of love) really pleased "the girls" as I like to call them! The Cattas have thanked me from week one; they seemed brighter and stood up better and I now have new growth and plants flowering that would not before. The Vandas are also spiking and flowering well: no more blasting (as they were doing before being repotted). The Oncidiums seem to be doing okay, although I am worried that they may need more than weekly watering in the summer. If this turns out to be the case, I am unwilling to do this and they may need to into moss.

For those who want to know, you can buy enough Rexius bark at the Marin Orchid Society meetings to report a few plants. This mix contains charcoal and perlite. If you need to replant a lot of orchids, I bought huge bags of Rexius bark from Jim and Kris Foster of the Sonoma Orchid Society. The diatomite can found online.

Happy repotting next season!

Mary Ann Aleandri

(This timely article is reprinted from the BB, January 2010)



Conservatory of Flowers

Share your love of plants with Conservatory visitors! The seven session training program will be held 2:00-5:00 on Wednesdays from February 16 to March 30. Trainees can choose to be Jungle Guides or Docents. Jungle Guides lead tours for elementary school children that cover the basics of plant adaptations. Docents lead tours for adults to educate visitors about the Conservatory's collection of tropical plants. For more information, contact Erika Frank, the Director of Volunteer Services, at (415) 637-4326 or efrank@sfcoc.org.

And check out their website: [Conservatory of Flowers Docents Information](#).

Greenhouse Tour with SCOS

Plan on this some time in April! SCOS has once again invited MOS members to join them for the bus tour of settings not generally open to the public.

Once again, the cost will be reasonable and so much easier than driving ourselves! Updates will be posted in the MOS Back Bulb and on the SCOS website.

REMEMBER!

**Orchids are our
group's only
obsession!**

Purpose and Vision of Marin Orchid Society

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

Are there article you would like to see? Topics you feel we should cover? Please bring your ideas for articles to the next meeting or email me at marin.orchids@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Sandra Merlo
Back Bulb Editor
Marin Orchid Society

MOS Membership / Renewal Application

Name _____ new ___renew___
Address _____
City _____ ZIP _____
Phone(H) _____ (W) _____
e-mail _____

Business (optional for roster) _____

Dues are \$25 per person per year, including two at the same address.

Please make checks payable to the Marin Orchid Society.

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: Bill Lenarz, PO Box 251, Kentfield, CA 94914-0251, or bring this form to the meeting.

MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY EVENTS - 2011

January 25 - General Meeting; Adam Anderson presentation: On the Orchid Trails of Borneo.

February 22- General Meeting with speaker.

March 3-6 - MOS Display at POE, San Francisco; Set up on 3/2, take down on 3/6

March 22 - General Meeting with Speaker

April TBA - Greenhouse Tour with SCOS.

April 26 - MOS Spring Orchid Auction

May 24 - General Meeting with Speaker

June 28 - MOS Bingo Night and Pot Luck

July 26 - General Meeting; Orchids 101; Mini-Auction

August 23 - General Meeting with speaker

August TBA - MOS Barbecue, date to be announced, at Lynne's home

September 27 - General Meeting with Speaker

September TBA - Greenhouse Tour; date and detail to be announced

October 25 - MOS Fall Orchid Auction

November 22 - Members' Orchids Digital Show and Tell; workshop

December - No General Meeting. Holiday Dinner: Date to be determined.

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; 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; [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; Jeff Trimble at 650-368-8260; [Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers](#).

Fourth Friday: Napa Valley Orchid Society; 7:30 pm at Napa Senior Activities Center 1500 Jefferson St. Napa CA 94558

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