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The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Monthly Newsletter

October 2010

Join us! **Falkirk Cultural Center**, Tuesday, Oct. 26, for our fall auction!
Silent Auction at 6:45; Live Auction follows. No orchid doctor.

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President's Corner:

MOS Fall Orchid Auction
Tuesday October 26 6:45

Featuring plants from
D & D Orchids

Auctioneer Dennis Olivas

How many times have we admired a plant that a member is sharing at Show and Tell, and they proudly say they got it at the MOS Orchid Auction? This is one of the things MOS does best: offering beautiful, healthy and interesting Orchids for sale. Our October 26 Fall Auction is an opportunity to enhance *your* collection with special blooming and pre-blooming Orchids.

Many of the plants to be live-auctioned come from the nursery of Dennis Olivas. They have been grown in northern California, and therefore

Dear BackBulb,

Thank you Ron, Gail, and Adam for moving our MOS meeting to the temperate and pleasant porch of the Falkirk Center! We could easily see Blaine Maynard's beautiful presentation on Australian orchids and the Show and Tell beauties as well as the fabulous opportunity table!

There are a few unique October events around the Bay Area. One is the sale of Dick Stone's collection in Los Altos. Another is the final weeks of Orchid Mania which will lose its lease and one of its founders this month.

And it is nearly time for the MOS fall auction! Details are given in a separate article below

Note: If your web browser does not give a clear, two-column view of this electronic version of the Back Bulb, or the font looks too small, you can click the first line in this email that says: *Having trouble viewing this email? Click here.* The newsletter comes up as a webpage and you can adjust the size as you would any webpage. This setting also allows you to print in black and white.

Sandra Merlo, Back Bulb Editor

Monthly Meeting: On Tuesday, October 26, MOS members and guests meet in the parlor of the **Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave. at "E" Street, San Rafael.** See you there!

Refreshments will be provided by MOS.

Your MOS Fall Orchid Sale and Just Plain Fun!

should adapt easily to your growing conditions. We are fortunate that Dennis is also our Auctioneer, because his extensive knowledge of the cultural needs of the Orchids, will help us make good choices about which ones we each want to take home.

There is also a HUGE "silent auction" of excellent, mostly non-blooming orchids offered by the MOS membership. These typically sell for a fraction of what they are worth, so it is a great opportunity to try an Orchid that is new to you.

The Auction is an important fund-raiser for our Society, and it is a wonderful time to bring guests, because buyers can learn about the care and cultural needs of whatever plant catches their fancy.

Remember the MOS Auction motto: ***Bid Often and Bid High.***

See you on the 26th for a lively evening.



This grows best...

Lynne

New MOS Members, Renewals

Welcome to new members Jerry and Judith Miller. Thank you renewing members: Phil and Peggy Bortolussi. We



*Silent Auction Orchids
and Bid Sheets*

pretty competitive, so don't be shy as you show your paddle to the auctioneer!

Thanks to the excellent selection of Orchids from the nurseries of Dennis Olivas (Half Moon Bay) and from MOS member growers, there will be plenty of blooming or near-blooming orchids for the live auction plus a tempting silent auction of non-blooming plants that are excellent values. *(In front of me right now is a phalaenopsis with seven large blooms that I bought at auction for \$2 because one of the leaves was cracked. It has had 14 gorgeous blooms this year. I think I got the best of the silent auction on that plant!)*

Before the bidding starts in the live auction, we hear about the attributes and necessary growing conditions of each plant. This sage advice will come not only from auctioneer but also from members who are seasoned growers.

Here are the details for buying and selling at the auction:

Auction fee is still only \$2.00! (Anyone wishing to participate as a buyer or seller in the silent or live auction must pay the auction fee of \$2.00.) Plant donations are welcome! Please bring your donated plants as early as possible with labels as described below and give them to any of the Board Members: Bill, Lynne, Susan, Ron, Gail, Sandra M, or John M.

Members are welcome to sell their orchids! Plants in flower may be sold in the live auction. Plants without flowers will be placed in the silent auction. 20% commission on all sales to MOS.

In order to sell plants at the auction, you must:

- 1) Be a current member in good standing to have the privilege of selling plants at the auction. So, if you have not yet renewed your membership, be sure to send Bill your check or bring your dues to the auction.
- 2) Place a label on each plant with your name and seller's code, the

enjoy your participation.

Board of Directors

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457-0836

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Treasurer: Bill Lenarz
457-1642

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Quick Links...

[Marin Orchid Society](#)

[American Orchid Society](#)

[San Francisco Orchid
Society](#)

[Pacific Orchid Expo](#)

[Online Orchid Species
Identification](#)

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 is outlined in red.

For email, you will receive a reminder postcard. Unsure?

Ask Bill Lenarz!
(blenarz@earthlink.net)

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.

Upcoming Board of Directors' Meeting

plant name and the minimum bid. (Example: Max Ylaria MY1, Onc. Kalihi 'Big'; Minimum Bid \$10). A description of the plant and a picture are optional but may increase interest.

3) Fill out a Seller's List of all the plants you brought for sale and include the corresponding seller's code.

4) When you arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 pm, a board member will attach a circular sticker with your seller's code onto each plant's pot.

5) Please prepare the labels and list at home prior to coming to the auction! This assures that plants will not be lost and that sellers will be accurately paid. **Note: MOS members will receive a separate email from the Marin Orchid Society with a sample tag as well as forms to download and print.**

(No bugs allowed! Plants with bugs will be removed from the auction and from the room.)

There will be no dinner prior to the auction in October, no opportunity table, and no Show and Tell.

Refreshments for the auction will be provided by MOS.

Also at this meeting:

Cal-Mag 15-5-15 Fertilizer for Sale! This orchid food corrects the Calcium deficiency of our local water and should be substituted for your regular fertilizer once per month.

- \$4 for an 8-oz bag; just \$3 for MOS members.

MOS T-Shirts Available: Be a billboard for MOS! There are a few MOS cotton t-shirts still available in sizes M-XL in white or navy both of which feature the MOS logo. Let the public learn about MOS while you are out and about on errands! Your cost is \$6 for members, \$7 for guests.

Directions to Falkirk Cultural Center: From the North on 101, take Central San Rafael exit, turn West onto Mission Avenue in San Rafael and continue to 1408 at "E". From South Marin, take the 101 exit for Central San Rafael, go North to Mission, then left on Mission. There is a parking lot plus parking in the u-shaped entryway.

Blaine Maynard: The Wonder of Australian Orchids

One of the first things we learned about Australian orchids is that there are some we can successfully grown and some whose growing conditions are so specific that there are few plants known in the wild.



November 4 at 7 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.

September Show & Tell

Members who bravely brought their plants, despite the warm weather, are Adam Anderson, Susan Anderson, and Carolyn Fisher. Thank you for brightening our evening!

Reminder: Sign the S&T sheet and please write your name and orchid name so both are easy to read!



Susan and a basket of blooms



Because Australia is the first continent to separate from the ancient landmass Gondwana (formerly Gondwanaland) some 150 million years ago. This created a unique topography and, from that, unique plants, animals, and of course orchids.

Australia itself contains diverse climates, ranging from desert with almost no life forms to the tropical north where orchids abound.



Blaine Maynard

Blaine brought a tempting opportunity table and happy members went home with new treasures.

Remember Orchids for the People in Humboldt County when you are looking for cool and intermediate temperature orchids and check out the orchid-growing tips at the website: Orchids for the People.

Thanks to **Cathy Thompson** for bringing refreshments and to many members for helping with set up and take down out of doors..

Photo by Ann Weiskopf

AOS AWARDS SEPTEMBER 2010

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, Pacific Central Judging Center - Sacramento
- Phalaenopsis bellina 'Goblin', AM 81 species, exhibited by Ramon de los Santos.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, Pacific Central Judging Center - San Francisco
- Anguloa ruckeri 'Winston', HCC 79 (A. clowesii × A. hohenlohii), exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen.

- Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'Christopher John', CCE 94 species, exhibited by Steve Beckendorf.

Kathy Barrett adds: "Additionally I set up a Facebook page for the California Sierra Nevada, [Facebook for California Sierra Nevada Judging Center](#). so have your members 'friend' us so they can see award photos and also (if I can get vendors on board) find out about shows, sales, coupons or open houses. I think if I get more friends Facebook will drop the extra numbers and I can just be California Sierra Nevada etc etc." On Facebook? Let's "friend" them!

Awards can be seen at:

- Pacific Central <http://www.aospacificcentral.org>
- California Sierra Nevada <http://www.csnjc.org>

Orchid Sales and More in SF Bay Area and Beyond

There are some exceptional events this month and beyond that it

Adam and friends



Carolyn Shares a Beauty!

Thank you for bringing your plants and telling us about them.

Photos by Ann Weiskopf.

AOS Book Review

Bloom-Again Orchids: 50 Easy-Care Orchids That Flower Again and Again and Again

by judywhite. 2009. Timber Press, Portland. 113 color photographs. Softcover. 132 pages. \$14.95..

This book is a handy guide for the beginner orchid enthusiast or windowsill grower who is looking to expand his or her collection. The format is helpful, concise and very easy to use.

The introduction explains where orchids grow, their basic structure, why their names can be so confusing and defines the terms used in the book as to light and temperature, etc.

The next section, "The 10 Best Tips for Growing Orchids," is well written and very useful for the beginner, including suggestions for choosing an

seemed important to pass on the information. Some include sales of mature orchids as growers retire or move on. Other events are orchid extravaganzas that just might be worth a trip.

Orchid Mania is closing the end of this month. For information on the final, final sales, go to:

717 Paris St (between Amazon Ave & Italy Ave), San Francisco, CA 94112, Neighborhood: Excelsior

(415) 841-1678

www.orchids.org

Dick Stone Collection, Los Altos: \$7 DOLLAR ORCHID SALE! Blooming size plants: Cattleya Alliance, Oncidinae, Species, etc., many hybrids not available elsewhere. Also available: selected Sophronitie Coccineas, on slabs and in pots, priced depending on size. All Sophronitis are mature. October 15, 16, 17, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M., 737 Parma Way, Los Altos.

Santa Barbara Orchid Estates holds their Fall Open House November 6 & 7th, 2010. <http://www.sborchid.com/>

Guatemala City, February 2-7, 2011: The Fourth Orchid Expo for the Central Americas. Check out the website or email the event at: expoorquideas@hotmail.com; www.orquideasdeguatemala.org

Who Knew? Antique Pressed Orchids Studied...

An article in Wired Science talks about the value of a museum's pressed orchids, 150 years old, in the study of climate change. The spider orchids provide climate change data



Pressed Orchids (Wired Science)

Plants picked by Victorian collectors up to 150 years ago are a valuable new source of data for ecologists seeking to understand how climate change will affect the timing of flowering plants.

Scientists have used the carefully labeled and dated specimens of the early spider orchid, *Ophrys sphegodes*, to examine the affect of spring temperatures on flowering. The flowers were collected between 1848 and 1958.

Read More: [Antique Pressed Orchids](#)

Growing Orchids Naturally

By Mary Ann Aleandri



orchid and when it is necessary to repot.

The body of the book presents the 50 orchids in alphabetical order. Each entry consists of a full-page photographic example of the orchid and a facing page with the name of the orchid, a box of information, a checklist and explanatory text.

The box on the upper left of the page includes an excellent pronunciation guide, the genus name abbreviated (helpful in this era of mass production of complicated intergenerics), the common name (sometimes a stretch), a brief description of the plant, light needs, temperature range, potting needs and bloom time.

The checklist on the lower left is a list of 12 bits of data that can be helpful for the beginner when trying to decide what orchid to grow. The list includes information such as whether the plant needs a sunny windowsill, has large flowers, is fragrant, requires once-a-week watering and other useful details. I found the format of this list a little confusing at first because the list is the same for every orchid, but only the items in bold and with a check in front of them pertain to the orchid under discussion.

The explanatory text is helpful and consists of interesting background material about the orchid, including breeding and historical facts, anecdotal information and more detailed cultural suggestions. The cultural information is clear and informative, ensuring the new orchidist success in growing and reflowering the plant. The author has obviously grown each plant and is careful to include detailed counsel such as the following for *Cattlianthe*¹ Jewel Box. "Give the plant medium light, a bit brighter

If you have not been out to Bolinas to visit Mary Nisbet at California Orchids, you are really missing out on something wonderful! Located in West Marin County near the coast, California Orchids is a joy to visit and a marvel to behold.

In the center of the greenhouse, oak cork logs are constructed at various heights, creating several micro climates along their length. The mosses and fungi that cover the logs make them appear lush and living. And, of course, the orchids are amazing. Because of the temperature swings of cold weather and heat waves, the fog and the different micro climates, a wide variety of orchids thrives on the logs.

When you visit the greenhouse, be prepared to be awed. Not only do you get to see wonderful specimens but you see how orchids grow naturally and you glean a whole new understanding of their eco-system, growth habits and preferences.

If you don't have the AOS September *Orchids* magazine, you can borrow it from MOS at the meeting to read Mary's article and see pictures of her logs.

Mary has sales every Spring and Fall. You'll be really happy that you made the drive to Bolinas!

Photo by Mary Nisbet

AOS Monthly Checklist for September & October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

than other *Cattleyas* - it flowers best with direct morning sun, protected from hot afternoon rays. Provide more water than that given a typical *Cattleya*, perhaps every five days, and fertilize every other watering. Jewel Box does fine even if cooler or warmer than recommended, but it flowers better if it gets a 10° F (5 C) drop in temperature for a few weeks in the fall. It blooms twice yearly."

The cover of the book says that this is a book about "50 Easy-Care Orchids That Flower Again and Again and Again." This is correct for the most part, but there are a few glaring exceptions. Some of the plants discussed are ones that I would never consider easy, and in fact are actually difficult, even for the most experienced grower. An example is *Disa uniflora*. Its checklist is almost identical to the orchid on the previous page, *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* hybrids. It isn't until you read the text that you discover that only rainwater should be used and that summer heat should be avoided in the culture of *Disa uniflora*.

Even this information is not enough to grow *Disas*, which are considered to be one of the most challenging orchids to grow. I think it is mistake on the author's part to encourage the windowsill grower to "scour the internet" for this plant. A couple of other examples of plants that are not so easy to grow or flower included are *Angraecum leonis* and *rossioglossums*.

Orchids are now found everywhere from supermarkets and big box stores to eBay and Amazon. This book will be very useful for beginner orchid growers as they ponder which orchid would be best for their conditions and which will

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Lemboglossum bictoniense

Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip) and *roseum* (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate

flower for them again and again

Cordelia Head is an AOS accredited judge and a co-owner of J&L Orchids. 20 Sherwood Road, Easton, Connecticut 06612 (e-mail: jlorchid@snet.net; Web site www.jlorchids.com).

1) Formerly *Sophrrolaeliocattleya*

Let's Keep Spreading the Word About MOS



Mary Nisbet Orchid

MOS members are doing a great job this year of letting more people know about the value of MOS meetings plus all the fun. This is a great group of people who are enthusiastic about lending their orchid-growing expertise to beginners. In addition, we have a library, Orchid Doctor, access to OrchidWiz, and informative meetings.

for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum



Paphiopedalum volonteianum by Eric Hunt SF

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay .

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

Your ideas and articles are always appreciated!

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. (Questions? Email blenarz@earthlink.net)

MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY EVENTS - 2010

October 26 - MOS Fall Orchid Auction

November 23 - Members' Orchids Digital Show and Tell; Workshop

December 7 - No General Meeting. Holiday Dinner.

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, 7 pm, The Lompoc Library, Grossman Gallery, 501 E. North Ave, Lompoc, CA; [Coastal Valley Orchid Society](#)

Third Friday: Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers meeting; San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo; [Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers](#)

Fourth Wednesday: Sacramento Valley Cymbidium Society, 7pm, Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard in McKinley Park, Sacramento. [Sacramento Valley Cymbidium Society](#)

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

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

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