

The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2011

Join us! San Rafael Corporate Center, Tuesday, May 24, 7:00 PM
Orchid Doctor at 6:30; Virus / Water Testing If Requested in Advance

In This Issue

Dear Lynne,

President's Letter

Armchair Orchid Growing



Lynne Murrell

Here are two books I recommend for every Orchid lover's library:

1. *Botanica's Pocket Orchids* (H F. Ullmann) is an excellent, easy-to-use reference book, covering over 1500 Orchid species, with color photos of each. Alphabetical by genus, it provides brief geographical and cultivation notes, and details of the key species in each genus, with descriptions of the plant's habits and flowering forms. Useful info on habitat, climate, growing conditions, potting medium, watering and feeding. And a helpful glossary. Can't remember the needs of the plants you took home from the opportunity table? This is the book for you! Great photos make it a real page turner. (paperback, 2007, Random House)

The MOS Board has long hoped that Nick Burnett would one day have the time to speak to our group. That day is here at last! And the topic is one that will answer a lot of questions: Which species can I grow successfully?

Nick is a popular contributor to Speaker's Day at the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center in Sacramento where he shares his perspective on what orchid qualities judges look for and why, how points are determined, and more. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to learn from an expert. (And I have heard expert defined as someone who has killed hundreds of orchids!) Bring your questions.

Dinner with the speaker is scheduled prior to the meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Lynne Murrell for directions and additional information.

Opportunity Table

The opportunity table for this meeting will be provided by Nick Burnett.

Refreshments

Appetizers and desserts will be provided by MOS members whose last names begins with S-Z.

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.)

Nick Burnett: Species You Can (or Should) Grow

2. A well-researched true story, *The Orchid Thief*, by Susan Orlean, reads like a juicy Orchid-filled novel. A staff writer for *The New Yorker*, Orlean captures the eccentricity and passion of Orchid hunters, Orchid growers (including several we know) and Orchid thieves and con-men throughout history. The author traipses through slimy Florida swamps to glimpse the "Ghost Orchid" (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) in its snake-infested jungle habitat, with pithy observations like, "I hate hiking with convicts carrying machetes." Loved the book, hated the movie (Nicholas Cage, Meryl Streep), which had none of the intelligence and fascination of the book. (paperback 1998, Ballantine Publishing)

These are two of my favorites; I'd love to hear about yours.

Lynne

MEMBERSHIP New and Renewing

Thank you to those who renewed: John and Cecilia Bowman, Christy Herrmann, and Lisa Miller! And a welcome to new members Linda McCarthy and David Barni. Doubling the size of our society is now practical with our larger meeting space. Simple math: when each member brings in one new member this year, think how we will all benefit!

Nick Burnett has been growing (and killing) orchids since 1991. He started on a windowsill, then a light rack, and finally in a backyard greenhouse. Through a process that Darwin would recognize immediately as "natural selection," he grows primarily slipper orchids--both paphiopedilums and phragmipediums--along with some assorted bulbophyllums, cattleyas, and the random oncidium.

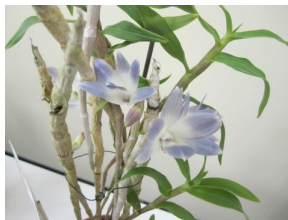
Though he greatly admires phalaenopsis, he only grows a couple and then only as an early warning system for snails. He has given repeated talks to cymbidium societies around the Central Valley but, oddly, he has never been able to bloom a cymbidium! He will be talking about "Species You Can (Or Should) Grow"

When he is not growing orchids, he is a professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Sacramento. He is currently serving as the Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and quietly plots his return to teaching.

He thinks orchid growing should be fun. He has heard way too many dreadful orchid speakers and wants you to know that he will work extra hard not to be one them!

Nick is an AOS Judge and contributes his talents to the Annual California Sierra Nevada Judging Center's Speaker's Day in Sacramento, long a favorite event of MOS members. Calendar it now! Here is the link with all the information you will need: [Speakers Day with CSNJC](#).

April: MOS Spring Auction



Dendrobium in Blue

This spring, we not only had the opportunity to bid on orchids but also on orchid-care products contributed by DynaGro, very popular judging by the bidding. It was great to be back in a larger space where there was plenty of room for the silent auction and for the orchids for the live auction.

With access to orchid information websites, bidders were able to learn more about the culture of the orchids that looked interesting and make an informed yes or no decision.

The silent auction was a success as well, with quite a few happy bidders going home with new orchids.



Quick Links...

[Marin Orchid Society](#)
[American Orchid Society](#)
[San Francisco Orchid Society](#)
[Online Orchid Species Identification](#)
[MOS Blog](#)

Orchids Fake Infection to Attract Flies

Darwin might smile: Thanks to Ron Ludwig for sharing this delightful article from Wired Science that shows how an endangered orchid fakes an infection to attract flies as pollinators:

[Orchid Fakes Infection](#)

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

Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting

June 2 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.

AOS Repotting Videos

Did you know that there are many excellent videos on the AOS website and also on YouTube? Whether you want to pot a keiki,



Auctioneer Susan

Thank You. A special thank you goes to Patty Olson for donating orchids and to Lynne Murrell for donating orchid medium to MOS for the auction. Merci beaucoup to the MOS

Board members who contributed the refreshments.

MOS Went Electronic! Thank you Gail and Ron for making the auction even easier with an automated tracking system and orchid information that could be easily located and shared. Growing conditions were quickly researched and bills were totaled electronically.



Paphiopedilum

Photos by Ann Weiskopf and Ron Ludwig



Bidding was hot!



A Few of the Live Auction Orchids

Mark Your Calendar!



It is time to get creative for MOS annual display at the **Marin County Fair!** Setup will be on Monday, June 27 and takedown on July 5. The fair is open from June 30-July 4. As a MOS member, this is a time when when orchid lovers and growers-to-be ask us lots of questions and get to learn what MOS offers its members.

Come 'Tie One On'! Our June 28 meeting is the annual (loved or dreaded) MOS Orchid Bingo *plus* an **Ice Cream Social**, and **How to Mount an Orchid on Bark.** (That's a mouthful.)

Play bingo, win orchids while enjoying your ice cream sundae and carefully mounting orchids on bark slabs. *This could prove interesting.*

Get Creative: While MOS will supply the ice cream, members are invited to bring their favorite toppings to share (or not...). Cookies are also wanted. Creativity



Mmmmm...Ice Cream!

decide whether to repot or divide, recognize mite damage, or even repot a cattleya, there is a wealth of information available to you.

Here is the AOS link:

[AOS Orchid Card Video Library](#)

For YouTube, try a search such as 'repotting an orchid' and you will find quite a few videos on any one topic. AOS itself has probably put out close to 100 videos.

counts--there are vanilla orchids, of course, but what other toppings that feature orchid colors and flavors can our members come up with?

MOS 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

The Back Bulb is always looking for timely articles on topics you find interesting and are ready to share! Email me at marin.orchids@gmail.com.

Sandra Merlo
BackBulb Editor
Marin Orchid Society

MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY EVENTS - 2011

May 14 - Greenhouse Tour with SCOS (waiting list possible).

May 24 - General Meeting with Nick Burnett: Special You Can (and Should) Grow

June 28 - MOS Bingo Night, Mini-Auction, and Ice Cream Social

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.

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 a meeting.

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; Weegie Caughlan at goldcoastcymgrowers@gmail.com; [Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers](#).

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

[Forward email](#)



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