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The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Newsletter January 2012

Join us! San Rafael Corporate Center, Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 PM.
Orchid Doctor@6:30; Water, Virus Testing With Advance Request

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Lynne Murrell

It's SHOW-time!

One of the highlights of Marin Orchid Society's calendar is the Pacific Orchid Expo, or POE. This is the second largest Orchid show in the U.S., with over

Dear BackBulb,

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a current or former member of the Marin Orchid Society or because you asked to be added to our mailing list. Should you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please send an email to marin.orchids@gmail.com and write Unsubscribe in the subject line. Thank you.

What challenging weather for orchid growers! Humidity is lower than usual, daytime temperatures are higher, and nights are freezing. It will be interesting to confer with others at the meeting and find out what is working where.

In addition to the MOS annual display at the Pacific Orchid Exposition (see Lynne's letter on the left), members and guests have the excellent opportunity to hear Cindy Hill share her wisdom about growing specimen orchids. Whether or not you intend to grow show-class orchids, her tips will help you cultivate even more beautiful plants, worth 'bragging rights'.

Cindy will provide the opportunity table.

Refreshments: Coffee and refreshments will be served. **If your last name begins with U through C,** please bring a dessert or appetizer around 6:30 pm so that we can set it up for the meeting. Members who bring food will be given a free strip of tickets for the drawing to win an orchid.

25,000 visitors...and it's just across the Golden Gate Bridge in Fort Mason.

In fact, the theme for 2012 is "A Salute to the Golden Gate", which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

With your help, MOS will again present an eye-popping display at POE, designed by Gail Beach and Ron Ludwig, with assistance from Mary Ann Aleandri, Adam Anderson, Carolyn Fisher, and Susan Anderson.

The dates for POE 2012 are:

- Display set-up: Wed. Feb 22 starting at noon
- Gala Benefit Preview: Thursday Feb 23, 6:30 to 10pm
- Orchid Show and Sale: Friday Feb 24 thru Sunday Feb 26
- Tear-down: Sunday Feb 26, 6pm

At our January 24 meeting, Gail and Ron will share details about the display, materials and help needed (transportation of display materials!), and sign-up sheets to help with set-up and tear-down.

Directions to San Rafael Corporate Center:

From 101S:

Exit 452 toward Central San Rafael, continue straight onto Hetherington St., take the 3rd right onto 3rd St., turn left onto Lindero 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 Lindero St. (just past Ritter). (Note: 3rd St. is one way West, 2nd St. is one way East.)

Cindy Hill: Growing Specimen Orchids

Cindy's lifelong love of nature and wildlife led her to major in Biology at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.

She has been growing orchids for pleasure for over 30 years, beginning on a kitchen windowsill in St. Louis, with a plants ordered by mail from Orchids by Hausermann, in Chicago. (Remember catalogs?)



Cindy Hill with
Coelogyne cristata

When she moved to southern California in 1982, she started growing plants outside on a small patio, and in a 7x7 ft lean-to greenhouse at her home in Solana Beach. Even in her small yard, microclimates of temperature, light and moisture existed; she began to extend her growing area and collection, hanging plants in an orange tree and in the 5 ft-wide alleyway behind the garage and growing pots on plastic utility shelving set against the walls of the house. She moved to the Bay Area in 2005, and now grows around 1500 species orchids in an intermediate greenhouse in Berkeley.

Favorite genera include *Dendrobium*, *Coelogyne*, *Holcoglossum*, *Miltoniopsis* and *Laelia*, and she is particularly fond of miniatures and the 'weird and wonderful'. Plants she has cultivated have received the highest AOS

The display needs **YOUR Blooming Beauties** to be successful. **PLUS**, this is an opportunity for MOS Members to enter our special Orchids for ribbon judging, and for American Orchid Society judging.

At our January MOS meeting, you can pick up: POE cards good for \$2-off at the door (not valid at the Gala).

This year POE will feature over 35 international growers / vendors, docent tours, a silent auction, and availability of Orchid experts, from far and wide, to answer your questions and offer sage Orchid advice.

At the end of this issue of the Back Bulb, please see the announcements for other upcoming Orchid shows and events, including the Sonoma Orchid Society's annual show at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Building on February 4 & 5.

Wishing you a New Year filled with joy and Orchids.

Lynne

quality and cultural awards, as well as the Benjamin Kodama and Carlyle A. Luer Annual Awards from the American Orchid Society. Her plant of *Cochlioda vulcanica* was Reserve Grand Champion at the New York International Orchid Show, and her plants have earned Best of Show several times at the Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco.

Cindy has traveled to observe orchids in the wild in Madagascar, Borneo, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Peru. These experiences have helped her develop an understanding of what an orchid's natural habitat looks, sounds, smells and feels like, which she applies to her cultivation methods. She has been a member of the conservation committee of both the American Orchid Society and San Diego County Orchid Society.

She served as Acting Editor of Orchid Digest magazine for five years, and is currently a member of the Publication Committee of both the AOS and Orchid Digest; her articles have been published in both magazines. Her favorite pastime now - other than orchids - is serving as a docent in the evolution specialty group at the California Academy of Sciences, in Golden Gate Park, where she continues to learn about the natural world, and to share her enthusiasm for it with others.

Species Identification Task Force (SITF)

Have you heard about the AOS Species Identification Task Force (SITF)? SITF is under the supervision of the Judging Committee of the AOS and its mission is to try to improve and simplify the processing of awards, with the goal of ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who use reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts.

On the AOS website, a discussion of this topic points out

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](#)

[Online Orchid Species](#)

[Identification](#)

[MOS Blog](#)

Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting

February 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.

MEMBERSHIP

New and Renewing

Renewing member is Mary Anne Aleandri.

that the "task force replaces the previous cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to a taxonomic expert. The SITF, using today's electronic communications capabilities and readily available high quality digital images, hopes to facilitate the process of identifying awarded plants and to get the process done in a timely manner. Most awarded species do not need a taxonomist for identification, if reference material is available. When reference material is not available we use taxonomic experts who are willing to give opinions based on digital photographs. Occasionally awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this when it is required."

Their webpage also provides links to a variety of other resources which any orchidist would find interesting to explore. To find out more about the SITF. check out their site at [SITF website](#). You will enjoy exploring this site.

This SITF page is an example of the vast amount of information on the AOS website.

We are in the middle of an exciting show season and I hope you all will try to support the shows in your areas. For example, AOS will have an exhibit at the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show. Last year 265,000 attendees visited this show over its 7 days. The theme this year is Hawaii: Islands of Aloha. The Spring Members' Meeting of the AOS will be hosted by the Wichita Orchid Society. For more information on these two shows (including how to register for the Members' Meeting), look on the AOS website under Events.

Lynn Fuller, AOS Corner [Edited from original]

Closeout: Bob Gordon's Phalaenopsis Books

Expert grower and world traveler Bob Gordon passed away in September and his books are offered to MOS members at discount prices. Please contact Bob's son, Rob Gordon, to place an order at:

rgordon93@sbcglobal.net

Beginner in 2008-\$10, now \$5

Show & Tell

No Show and Tell in
December.

Shows and Open Houses

Santa Rosa, February 4-5: Sonoma County Orchid Society,

Orchids Go Country.

Learn how to cultivate
orchids and meet the
experts at skill
sessions throughout
the show.

Saturday 10am - 5pm /

Sunday 10am - 4pm.

General Admission:

\$8.00. For details,

[GO TO SCOS](#)

[Website](#)

Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza, White Oak Orchids,

February February 23,

24, 25

9am - 5pm.

1204 Linda Mar Blvd,

Unit A * Pacifica * CA *

[Click for flyer.](#)

Culture in 2008-\$20, now \$10
Seedling in 2008-\$18, now \$10
Survey in 2008-\$25, now \$15
Writing in 2008-\$3.50, now \$2

For the book descriptions, [click here.](#)

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.

Sincerely,

Sandra Merlo, Back Bulb Editor
Marin Orchid Society

MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY EVENTS - 2012

January 24 - Cindy Hill on Specimen Orchids

February 28 - General Meeting with speaker

March 27 - General Meeting with speaker

April 24 - General Meeting with speaker
May 22 - Spring Auction
June 26 - Ice Cream Social and Game
July 24 - Re-blooming Orchids, speaker
August TBA - MOS BBQ
September 25 - Tom Perlite on Slipper Orchids
October 23 - MOS Fall Orchid Auction
November 27 - Members' Orchids Digital Show and Tell; photography workshop with David Judd
December TBA - MOS Annual Holiday Dinner

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 Bldg, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave & Lincoln Way; [San Francisco Orchid Society](#)

First Wednesday: Sacramento Orchid society meeting; Odd Fellows Hall, 1831 Howe Ave. (921-0569), Sacramento; [Sacramento Orchid Society](#)

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; [Orchid Society of California](#)

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

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