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The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2011

Join us! San Rafael Corporate Center, Tuesday, September 27, 7 PM.
Orchid Doctor at 6:30; Virus / Water Testing, if Requested in Advance

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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.

President's Letter



Summer is finished, and our fall and winter blooming Orchids are responding to the shorter days and cooler nighttime temperatures by starting to form their long-awaited flower spikes and sheaths. It is important to continue to support them with "weekly weakly" feedings, using the balanced fertilizer of your choice. Adding the micro-nutrients in a time-released fertilizer

September's meeting is an excellent one to invite friends to come with you to hear Tom Perlite share his knowledge about Odontoglossums and Oncidiums: breeding, culture, repotting, potting media, and pests. For our opportunity table, Tom will bring a selection of flowering plants representing the different intergeneric combinations possible.

Members whose last names begin with J-N have the honor of providing appetizers and desserts for this month's meeting.

Always a popular speaker at our meetings, you will want to hear Tom Perlite, so take the time to mark your calendar and call your friends now!

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 refreshments will be served. If your last name begins with **J through N**, please bring a dessert or appetizer around 6:30 pm so 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.

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

will give them that extra something-something they need to form more and larger blooms...and that's what it's all about, isn't it?? I've just given my Cattleya alliance plants another 6-month dose of oyster shells for calcium. And I will do the final application of Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate) on all of the winter-blooming Cymbidiums (1 to 2 TBSP per gallon, diluted first in warm water).

The Society has a number of fun and informative events lined up, and we know we will see more of you at meetings, as we settle back into our post-vacation routines.

September's meeting, with Tom Perlite speaking on Oncidiums and Odontoglossums will also feature a gorgeous opportunity table, with many blooming beauties from Tom's Golden Gate Orchids. Perfect for novice and expert growers.

October is our Fall Auction, and Dennis Olivas has agreed to be our Auctioneer again this year; he'll bring an amazing array of Orchids for us to bid on. Please start preparing the Orchids YOU would like to sell at the Fall

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.)

September 27: 'Odontoglossum-Oncidiums'



Magenta Odontoglossum,
by Ron Ludwig

MOS members are fortunate to hear Tom Perlite talk about his passion for and expertise in orchid cultivation, hybridizing, and TLC. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your knowledge and, if you like, add unusual new orchids to your collection. This presentation will focus on Oncidiums and Odontoglossums.

Tom, owner of Golden Gate Orchids in San Francisco, has been growing orchids for the past 30 years. After receiving a degree in Botany from Cal Berkeley, Tom worked at the Rod McLellan Co., and subsequently started Golden Gate Orchids in 1981. Golden Gate Orchids is a wholesale nursery specializing in cool growing orchids including Odontoglossum, Masdevallias, Miltonias, and Dendrobiums.

With the ideal growing climate in San Francisco, Tom has been growing and hybridizing Odontoglossums since 1975. Tom is a retired AOS judge and has received numerous awards including Grand Champion at the Osaka International Orchid Show, the George Moore Medal from the RHS, the Butterworth Prize and 6 FCCs from the AOS.



Odontoglossum, by Ron Ludwig

Tom will provide the orchids for our opportunity table! What an educational event for MOS orchid lovers and guests.

August - Dan Newman on Maxillarias

Auction... blooming Orchids go on the Live Auction table, and un-blooming ones are entered in the Silent Auction. There are always amazing plants for very reasonable prices...and plenty of free advice on which ones will work for your growing conditions.

November is our Member's Show & Tell meeting, and we hope to have another Photography Workshop to round out the evening.

And **December** is our Holiday Party... we're finalizing the date with Arrivederci Restaurant in San Rafael... space is limited to 30, so we'll get you the details asap.

We're looking forward to your participation in the Marin Orchid Society, and as always, will appreciate your ideas and feedback on what will make the society work for YOU.

Yours in Orchids,
Lynne

MEMBERSHIP
Renewing Members
Angie Williams, Judith
and Jerry Miller, and
Dolores Scott.

Quick Links...
[Marin Orchid Society](#)
[American Orchid Society](#)
[San Francisco Orchid](#)



Maxillaria fractiflexa

Thank you, Dan, for your excellent talk on Maxillarias, even though the time allowed exploration of only a sampling of the 570 validly described species! We learned that this epiphytic plant comes primarily from tropical America, ranging from Mexico to Southeastern Brazil and Argentina. The taxonomy is under debate as "...the human mind tries to order something from the natural world."

Dan informed us that, generally speaking, these orchids are tough and adaptable.

Most of them can be potted, mounted, or placed in hanging basket. Most of them are moisture lovers, enjoy indirect light, and are resistant to pests and disease. Because they are prone to leaf spotting, growers may need to fine tune their medium and culture. Scale, however, can be quite a problem. Safari, a neonicotinoid, has proven good for wiping it out. The down side of that is that Safari has to be purchased from a certified source and comes in large packages.

With choosing a Maxillarias, pay attention to the growing conditions where they originate. Some come from high rainfall areas and are finicky about water quality. Others can be light and / or temperature sensitive. Some are hard to bloom unless their native growing conditions can be duplicated.

We were sad to hear that deforestation to plant cash crops such as soy beans and coffee has totally destroyed some Maxillarias.



Dan Newman

MOS Members' Summer BBQ

Once again, MOS members enjoyed a day filled with orchids, fine food, excellent company and ... plenty of good-nature competition and hilarity.

Thank you, dear President Lynne Murrell, for an excellent menu of barbecued meats and chicken, mouth-watering side dishes including tomato-carmelized onion tart, salads, and dessert. Yes, *tiramisu* lived up to the true translation from the Italian-- 'carry me up' (to heaven)!



BLC Asian Sunset

[Society](#)
[Online Orchid Species](#)
[Identification](#)
[MOS Blog](#)

Show and Tell August 2011



Linda Tripp

- *Cycnoches barthorium*
- *Masd. datura*



Mary Ann - Basket
of Blooms

- Phal Minho Princess
'WaterColor'
- Den Burana 'White' x
'Charming'
- Den (Malia Akana x Mary Mak)
'Hawaii'



Bill Stott

Paph

Most who came participated in the orchid exchange where three prized orchids were traded over and over again. According to the number drawn, a member could pick a new orchid or ... take one that another member had already selected. There was no limit on how many times a plant could be re-taken, leading to frivolity, frustration, and uproarious laughter all around.

Thank you to Glenn Smith who donated orchids that were looking for a new home! These were prized by many a grower.

Orchid Shows, Open Houses and Private Sales



Fred Shull Laelia purpurata, by
Eric Hunt

There are quite a few opportunities to appreciate orchids and orchid fanciers, as well as find new plants to enhance your collection.

Cynthia Battershall Private Orchid Sale: Sept. 26, 27, 30 and Oct 1 and 2. By appointment only 2 to 6 pm. Established divisions, including pendant and high color cymbidiums and their companions, and intermediate growers such as *L. purpurata*, brassavola, cattleya, brassia, etc. Most plants: \$10.

Ten minutes south of the town of Sonoma. Cynthia Battershall.
707-938-2205. cybatt@yahoo.com.

Peninsula Orchid Society Auction, September 24: For the flyer and details, [click here](#).

California Orchids, Bolinas, Fall Open House and Sale September 24. For flyer and directions, [click here](#).

Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale, November 12-13: AOS-judged show, featuring some rare orchids, with demos, expert info, and plants for show and sale. Free parking, easy access. For flyer with all the info, click here.

In Memorium of Frank Fordyce, Cattleya Expert

We are sad to report the death of Frank Fordyce in August. Perhaps the best way to remember Frank is by re-printing our members one of his comprehensive articles on Cattleyas.

CULTURE OF CATTLEYAS, by Frank Fordyce

Cattleyas are the orchids first brought to mind when orchids are mentioned and are among the easiest to grow. Through hybridization they are available in an assortment of bright colors as well as the popular white and purple and have also been miniaturized to be easily grown on windowsills.



Gail Beach

'Mystery' Dendrobium



Carolyn Fisher

Epidendrum



Cathy Thompson

Psychopsis



Susan Anderson

- Dend. Lavefolium
-- Paph. Green Maudia

WHERE CAN I GROW THEM? - Cattleyas can be successfully grown as a house plant as well as in a greenhouse environment as long as good light and humidity are present. They may grow out-of-doors in a protected area in the mild spring and summer months, and in a bright, sunny window during the winter.

TEMPERATURE: - Cattleyas thrive in intermediate temperatures from 55 to 85 degrees F. with a relative humidity of 50 to 60%.

POTTING MEDIA: - Most Cattleyas are potted in fir bark. Perlite may also be added. One must remember that Cattleya roots are air-loving, and as long as the medium is chunky and allows good drainage and air movement around the roots, they should do well. Repot every 2 years to insure, not only that your pot remains roomy enough for new growth, but more importantly, that you change the old broken down bark for new fresh bark. When repotting, it is a good idea to soak your bark over night so that the dust and small particles settle and the good bark floats to the top.

WATERING: - When you water, water thoroughly and let it drain thoroughly. Overwatering is the biggest problem to overcome when caring for your Cattleyas. They require a **THROUGH DRYING-OUT** in between watering or root rot can occur. If in doubt as to when your plant is dry enough to water, sharpen a pencil to get fresh wood on the tip and stick it deep into the pot and twist it a time or two. If the fresh wood is darkened by moisture, **DON'T WATER!** Unless the pot is extremely light when picking it up, **DON'T WATER!** Never place a saucer under the plant so it sits in water...always maintain good drainage for healthy roots.

HUMIDITY: - Whether outdoors or in the home, humidity is obtained by placing the plants over gravel in a tray containing water. The evaporation of the water around the gravel provides humidity. A light misting of the foliage on hot days is beneficial in the morning.

FEEDING: - Using a water soluble fertilizer such as 30-10-10; or 20-20-20 is recommended each time you water, but only use 1/4 the recommended amount (if the recommendations call for 1 teaspoon per gallon of water, use 1/4 teaspoon per gallon). Every six weeks to two months use plain water for one watering.

LIGHT AND SHADING: - Cattleyas need a great deal of strong indirect light in order to flower. Direct hot sun may cause sunburn on leaves. If leaves are dark, lush green in color, the plant is not getting enough light to flower. The large-flowered, typical florist Cattleyas bloom once per year, and the miniature Cattleyas (plant height 6 to 12" with blooms to 5" size) bloom twice per year.

Note about the author: Frank Fordyce, two times past president of the Orchid Society of California is a world renown pioneer hybridizer

- *Arides Leuteo Alba v. rodristricta*

Barbara Herod
Encyclia x 3 and 1 sweet Epi.

Photos by David Judd

~~~~~  
For Show and Tell, please let the audience know:

**Plant name.** If it has no ID, then at least the species, or a best guess.

**Growing conditions.**

- **Light:** Is it grown on a window sill? If so, then what direction does the window face? If not a window sill, then what? Full sun, partial shade, heavy shade?

- **Temperature range**

- **Frequency of watering.**

- **Fertilizer? How frequently and what kind?**

- **Where is it from? What altitude does it normally grow at?**

- **Any other important details? Do tell!**

And remember that one of those who brings plants to show gets first pick of the opportunity table!

### 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

October 6 at 6:30 pm at Lynne Murrell's home. Board meetings are open to all members to observe. If you want to attend,

of *Miniature Cattleya*. He made such famous hybrids as SLC Madge Fordyce, SLC Sue Fordyce, SLC Hazel Boyd, SLC Dixie Jewels and other standard size famous *Cattleya* hybrids. Frank operated Fordyce Orchids, a small family owned and operated orchid company specializing in the *Cattleya* alliance.

### Master Gardeners to launch seasonal e-newsletter

Would you like a timely reminder of what vegetables to plant when? How to handle a pest that suddenly attacked your garden? Enter a new e-newsletter from the Marin Master Gardeners. Launching this fall, the Marin Master Gardener Leaflet is a free, quarterly e-newsletter filled with seasonal gardening advice, answers to pest/disease questions and announcements of upcoming talks and seminars.

Unlike more generic gardening newsletters, the Leaflet will be tailored to Marin County gardens, with links to in-depth, research-based horticultural resources on the Master Gardener website. The e-newsletter is an outreach of the University of California Cooperative Extension and the UC Master Gardener program.

The first issue of the quarterly Leaflet will be emailed in late September, and all Marin residents are eligible for a free subscription. Simply go to [www.marinmg.org](http://www.marinmg.org) and click on the "subscribe" button to receive the inaugural issue.

### 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

Are there article you would like to see? Topics you would like us to cover? Please bring your ideas for articles to the next meeting or email me at [marin.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:marin.orchids@gmail.com).

please give Lynne a call for directions.

*Sandra Merlo*

BackBulb Editor

Marin Orchid Society

*Thank you, photographers*

The Back Bulb greatly appreciates all the photographs that Ann Weiskopf has contributed over the years. Ann is taking a break as she recovers from her broken arm. David Judd will now be the MOS photographer. Thanks to both of you!

Editor

### MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY EVENTS - 2011

**September 27 - General Meeting with Tom Perlite**

**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](http://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](mailto: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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[Forward email](#)



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