



The Back Bulb

Marin Orchid Society Monthly Newsletter

September 2010

Join us! **Falkirk Cultural Center**, Tuesday, Sept. 28, with Blaine Maynard
Orchid Doctor at 6:45; Virus & Water Testing (if Requested in Advance)

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President's Corner:

Choosing Orchids for Success!

September and October are filled with exciting orchid shows, sales and auctions. Growers' catalogs arrive by mail and email. Endless temptations, exotic choices. It is true that an impulse orchid purchase will only set us back a few dollars, but take it from a veteran "succumber": we can make choices that improve our chance for success, while still trying some gorgeous new plants.

We have talked in recent meetings about our individual growing conditions, space constraints, and time-commitment to regular care and feeding of orchids. Another factor to consider when buying: species vs. hybrid Orchids. Species orchids occur in nature, and have adapted to very specific climactic conditions. Think "fussy". Hybrids are the result of crossing the pollen of 2 species to create a "primary hybrid"; or crossing the pollen of 3 or more species and/or hybrids, to create "complex hybrids". This process often takes place over several generations of orchid progeny.

Dear BackBulb,

In August, we found that rearranging the seating in our new meeting place worked out just fine. Everyone had a good view of the presentation and the orchids on display.

Did you see the beautiful article in *Orchids* about the "orchid logs" that Mary Nisbet has envisioned and created (with lots of help from friends and the orchids themselves!) at her nursery in Bolinas? This Saturday, Mary is opening her greenhouses to the public and it is a perfect opportunity to view them yourself. Details are given below in this newsletter.

And, on a personal note, this year has been very good for our orchids, even though they have bloomed a little later than usual, possibly due to cold summer. Humbling experience: Our son, Chris, offered to take care of some of our favorite plants when we took a long trip in 2009, then was reluctant to give them back. Well, nobody ever told him that Miltonias or Cattleyas were fussy so they are blooming beautifully in his greenhouse window. Sigh.... the Miltonia has never looked better.

Note: If your web browser does not give a clear, two-column view of this electronic version of the Back Bulb, you can click the first line in this email that says: *Having trouble viewing this email? Click here.* This setting also allows you to print in black and white.

Sandra Merlo, Back Bulb Editor

Monthly Meeting: On Tuesday, September 28, 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 those whose last names begin with N-S.

Show and Tell Reminder: With MOS increased membership and a shorter time window for the meetings in our new location, please bring up to 3 blooming orchids and keep your comments succinct for Show and Tell.

Blaine Maynard: The Wonder of Australian Orchids

From orchids everyone should grow to orchids you may never see in a lifetime, Australian orchids are some of the most aesthetically and environmentally diverse groups of orchids on the planet. Come join

Orchid hybridizers (growers) choose the "parents" they are going to cross (breed) for their beauty, blossom size and count, petal and lip markings, and many other flower attributes. They also breed for plant hardiness: tolerance for hot and cold, range of light levels, and wet/dry tolerance. Hybrids, therefore, are generally easier to grow, thrive and bloom, than their species Orchid ancestors.

How do you know when you are looking at the plant tag of a Beauty you would like to buy, if it is a species or hybrid? The binomial nomenclature tells you: the first name is capitalized (even when abbreviated) and it is the Genus, such as Phalaenopsis (Phal.), Dendrobium (Den.), Bulbophyllum (Bulb.). The genus name is followed by either:

- Species name: not capitalized, usually 1 word, **OR**
- Hybrid Name: Capitalized, and may be several words.



Phal amabalis

Thus Phal. amabalis is a white species native to Indonesia.

- Phal. Schilleriano-Stuartiana is a primary hybrid of 2 species: Phal. schilleriana x Phal. stuartiana).

us as we explore a group of orchids that inhabit some of the most extreme habitats on earth and do so in style!

Orchids for the People in Humboldt County is not only a nursery and center for orchid purchase, Blaine Maynard also provides excellent growing tips at the website: Orchids for the People. They specialize in cool and intermediate temperature orchids.



Blaine has also given a series of orchid-growing workshops for the Humboldt Orchid Society.

Australian Orchids have unique growing conditions and are unusual. Come and enjoy the talk. An opportunity table will be provided.

Want to enjoy dinner with the speaker? Please contact Susan Anderson to reserve a seat at the no-host event!

Also at this meeting:

NEW Fertilizer for Sale! 'Cal-Mag 15-5-15' orchid food available for sale. It 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: 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.

Thank You, Marni Turkel!

MOS members greatly enjoyed Marni Turkel's talk, judging by the questions, orchid viewing, and applause. We always love good photographs and orchid stories and growing tips.

Marni Turkel



Marni's story of her collection growing and growing from a couple dozen plants to three greenhouses sounded a bit familiar to many. (Adam announced that he is adding a greenhouse and a few others



Phal Looking for Matthew
'Newberry'

- Phal. Looking for Matthew 'Newberry' is a complex hybrid from 8 different species.

Species Orchids are often more expensive than complex hybrids (go figure!), because species are more difficult to propagate, and there is more limited demand in the marketplace.

So while trial and error are a great way to figure out which Orchids are most successful for you, look to the hardiness of hybrids as confidence builders. Keep a journal of your successes and failures, and refer to it often. And we'll look forward to seeing you at the fall shows and auctions.

Lynne

New MOS Members, Renewals

Welcome to new members Kate Powers and Timo Navsky. Thank you renewing members: Emma Hee, Dennis Gomez, Julie Walker, Jean Patterson, Ann Weiskopf, and Sandra & John Merlo. We enjoy your participation.

Board of Directors

are at least dreaming in that direction.)

Her focus was on *small* orchids, since a miniature is now being defined as 5" or less. As Marni showed a picture of each plant, her audience learned that a small plant does not necessarily mean a small bloom. And we saw a few beautifully complex blooms that were so small that they were difficult to see without a magnifying glass.

Thank you for those who brought our refreshments; unfortunately, the list disappeared before your editor was able to pick it up. And a big thanks to those who helped set up and take down. Your help is much appreciated, especially since the MOS rental agreement ends at 9:30 and we need to clean up and exit!

Photo by Ann Weiskopf

AOS AWARDS AUGUST 2010

August 3, 2010, Pacific Central Judging Center - San Francisco

- Dendrobium laevifolium 'Sam's Choice', AM 81 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
- Dendrobium laevifolium 'Golden Ray', HCC 76 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
- Dendrobium victoriae-reginae 'Blue Halo', HCC 77 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

August 16, 2010 - Pacific Central - Oakland

- Acineta superba 'Winston', AM 80 species, exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen
- Bulbophyllum alaguense 'Gilbert', CCM 84 species, exhibited by Carol Zoltowski
- Dendrobium schneiderae 'Gilbert', HCC 75 species, exhibited by Carol Zoltowski
- Paphiopedilum Pacific Rainbow 'Vinho Verde', AM 80 (Paph. Rainbow Sky x Paph. Pacific Shamrock), exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky (previous award HCC 76)
- Dracula diabolus 'Andina', HCC 79 species, exhibited by George McRae

August 7, 2010 - CSNJC - Sacramento

- Dimorphorchis rossii 'Pickle's Delight', HCC 77 species, exhibited by Ted Foin
- Paphiopedilum S. Gratrix 'Blanc de Blanc', HCC 76 (Paph. belatulum x Paph. godefroyae), exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky
- Sarcophilus hillii 'Elizabeth Anne', CBR (prov), species, exhibited by

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

Community Education
Committee Chair: Glenn
Smith 457-2538

James Morris

Awards can be seen at:

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

California Orchids Fall Sale September 18

Mary Nisbet's California Orchids will be open from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Bolinas**. The greenhouse is not open to the public except for the spring and fall open house events. Be sure to see Mary's orchid logs, featured in the latest AOS *Orchids* magazine.

**California Orchids
515 Aspen Rd.
Bolinas, California 94924
415-868-0203**

Quick Links...

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

August Show & Tell

Ann Weiskopf brought Mastivia Fromia, Bill Lenarz showed us his Blc Hawaiian Passion, Linda Tripp shared Masd. Monarch 'Cow Hollow', Patricia Olson talked about Richard Mueller, and Kathy Keller showed her Zygotepalum. Thank you for bringing in your plants!

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

Featuring small to LARGE specimens, plants for sale will include many kinds of orchids, some in and some out of flower, ranging from cool to warm to and intermediate growers. Re-potting materials and "sound advice" are offered as well. For additional information check the website: [California Orchids](#)

You can email Mary at: [Mary Nisbet](#)

One of the oldest orchid boarding facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area, California Orchids has been growing orchids professionally for over 20 years, and operating our boarding business since 1985. Their location in coastal Marin County allows them to grow a wide range of orchid genera.

At California Orchids, you will find 5 heated greenhouses and a large outdoor shade area. These areas make up over 15,000 square feet of space divided and heated according to varying needs of more than 20,000 orchid plants.

The central focus of California Orchids is to develop and grow orchid collections for their clients rather than wholesale or retail sales. Each spring and fall, however, California Orchids is open to the public.

This is an excellent opportunity to add to your collection, schmooze with other orchid fanciers, and enjoy the setting and many plants of California Orchids.

MOS August BBQ



Bill Lenarz and Masdevallia



Bill Lenarz



Linda Tripp



Patty Olson



Kathy Keller

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

Photos by Ann Weiskopf.

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?

Enjoying Excellent BBQ



Great turnout for our annual BBQ at *Chez Lynne et Tom!* What a beautiful day that graced this event; some even broke out their hats to ward off the sun. Food was excellent and plentiful and the service was...*par excellence!* Hard to believe it was an all-volunteer

crew that not only looked like professionals but were skillful as well.

The gorgeous huge bowl of berries for dessert made a big hit with this group. They were delicious and just the right kind of *light* after a choice of BBQ meats, chicken, and sausages. Conversations were many and the laughter showed a high level of fun. Thanks to all of you for such a good event and thank you, dear President Lynne, for your gracious hospitality.

Fred & Nan Paget



Conversations



Orchid Talk?

Photos by Ann Weiskopf



Tips for Submitting Your Pictures for the MOS "Blog"!



Let's put some new pictures on the MOS orchid blog! Pictures and articles can easily be added to the blog. Webmaster John, however, has a few rules for submission. Your pictures must be 72 dpi and no larger than 4" or 300 pixels wide on the longest side. John says he has received a few submissions featuring pictures 24 x 36" and just does not have the time to re-size each one. Plus, **each image needs a caption!** It's

borrrrring to view a lot of pictures with names like img3001, img3002, etc.....! Thank you for contributing your expertise and your blooming orchids to make our blog even better!

For those who do not know how to re-size, you might start with a

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

October 7 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.

free online site such as: <http://www.photosize.com/>

[MOS Blog](#)

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

September 28 - General Meeting with Blaine Maynard, Orchids for the People

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

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; 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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