

# The Sheath

## April General Meeting

Date: April 23, 2010

Time: Doors open at 7:00PM

Place: San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA

Take the Alameda de las Pulgas exit off of Hwy. 92.  
The Garden Center is located between 26th and 28th  
Avenues

Mailing address: P.O. Box 6894, San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

Skill Session at 7:00PM

**Growing Sobralias**

**Bruce Rodgers**

**Meeting plus Show and  
Tell Table - 7:45 PM  
followed by**

Speaker:

**Bruce Rodgers**

**New Sobralia  
Hybrids**

Opportunity table by  
**Bruce Rodgers**

### **New Sobralia Hybrids**

#### **Speaker Bruce Rodgers**

Our speaker for April will be Bruce Rogers. Bruce has always had a passion for the plant kingdom, growing plants as a hobbyist from an early age. He began his professional work with orchids in the late seventies when he was hired by the City of Atlanta Parks Department to work with their orchids in the greenhouses in Piedmont Park. Returning to San Francisco after this very successful endeavor, he was promptly hired by the Rod McLellan Company with two functions: head grower for their boarding department and to work on Vanda hybridization. At that time, Rod McLellan was major force in the orchid world and the association with this company led to many great opportunities. In the early eighties Bruce left to start Bruce Rogers Orchids, a orchid consulting and management company, and a few years later, Rogers-Fishman Boarding, an orchid boarding company in San Francisco. In the commercial world, he



has consulted and worked with major companies, department stores, and civic groups both nationally and internationally. In the private sector he has had the opportunity to work with many interesting and influential people. He has designed and created Orchid Gardens in private homes from Marin to Santa Barbara. Bruce has been growing and hybridizing Sobralias for many years. In 2002 Bruce, with Terry Root (well known as owner of the Orchid Zone) teamed up to form Oz Gardens, a wholesale nursery specializing in Sobralias. Their work has led to a wider selection of Sobralia for different climate zones, and an expanded blooming season.

Sobralias are giants of the Orchid World in both size of plant and flower. Sobralias can be a fantastic plant suitable outside culture in the Bay Area. Growing superbly in both pots and beds in the garden, they bloom easily in the late spring to early fall. Few orchids approach the beauty and allurements of Sobralias. Bruce will speak on his new favorite subject, New Sobralia Hybrids. Bruce will be supplying the opportunity table for the meeting, as well as giving the skill session on Sobralia culture.

Link to information on growing sobralias:  
<http://brucerogersorchids.com/uploads/>

**March Skill Session on De-flasking given by Dennis Olivas**



Dennis brought in a flask that was well past the time it should have been de-flasked - but, not a problem. He recommended that the de-flasking be done when the orchids are about 3 to 4 inches tall. I was under the mistaken impression, having only seen photos of commercial nursery flasks, that all flasks contained hundreds of orchid seedlings. Not so - you can easily buy flasks that have from 4 to 30 seedlings. Dennis recommends that you buy the ones with 15 or less. I was impressed to learn that Sharon Langan, who does not have a greenhouse, has bought flasks and successfully raised seedlings. Who knows how many of you have bought flasks and I never suspected a thing!



Dennis showed us a very simple technique for de-flasking. Simply take a pot (which will be your community pot), fill the bottom with bark mix, remove the seedlings with their agar from the flask, set the whole thing in the pot and fill the pot with bark mix. As the agar breaks down you may need to add more bark.



The advantages to this method are that the seedlings have a chance to adjust to the environment outside the flask without having trauma to their roots and the roots get a chance to develop further. However, if rats are able to access the area where your seedlings are, you may find them strewn around the pot after the rats have eaten the agar, which they find very tasty.

Dennis showed us a community pot where the seedlings are now large enough to be separated for individual potting. In the final photo he shows us the nice strong roots that have grown. Now the plants can be separated without damaging the roots.



## AOS Corner - Why Do You Grow Orchids?

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a new orchid grower who is blind. The caller was looking for audio information on growing orchids and so they contacted the American Orchid Society. I had a couple of cd's handy so I sent them to her. Guess what – there was no audio on them –oops! So then I found a VHS tape on EBay about growing orchids under lights. That worked better but there is still a lot of information that is shown and not described. So I am looking for someone who will tape (micro cassette) orchid education programs given at their society and send them to her. If you would consider helping please let me know at [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org) Her name is LaVonne, she lives in Bismarck, ND and she grows hibiscus as well as succulents. LaVonne also has a few orchids, a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium.

As I was looking for audio material people kept asking me, “why would a blind person want to grow orchids?” So I asked LaVonne – can you guess the answer? For the challenge! She enjoys the plants she currently grows but now wants something more challenging. LaVonne and I have had some great telephone conversations about orchids, she described how she feels a plant to determine if something is a keki or a new growth. I told her about fragrant orchids, miniature orchids and orchids with fuzzy stems she might want to consider. LaVonne had no idea there were so many types of orchids out there. Now she really wants a *Brassavola nodosa* and a *Paphiopedilum Pinocchio* but she has to wait for warmer weather. To me this is what orchid societies are all about – orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers. I am constantly amazed at the pleasure our orchids give us in one way or another.

Become a Great Orchid Grower – Support your local Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society.

Carol Holdren  
AOS Trustee  
AOS Affiliated Society Committee Chair

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## Editor's Corner

I have been out and about lately. One of the guests at the Easter celebration my husband and I went to was Colin Smith, who is newsletter editor (6 years) and current President of the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. We had an interesting time comparing notes on how our two shows are run. They have their show in a school, but do not have space for any vendors.

Since I still have “spare” time, I took orchids to the Malihini show and to the Santa Clara show. Having not gone to any shows other than ours and POE, there were many interesting things to learn.

One was that many POS members were showing plants (and winning ribbons and awards) at Malihini and Santa Clara - and some belong to those societies as well as ours. Also, I am now very grateful for the building where we hold our show. There are some disadvantages to holding shows in malls and schools.

But most of all, I am impressed with how well our show runs and the abundance and the skills of volunteers that we have at POS. I am impressed that the smaller societies manage to put their shows on. It is a wonderful benefit for the rest of us and an amazing, and sometimes expensive effort for them.

I admit that in the past I have thought “What?!?” when POE has come to our meeting to sign up volunteers. As I learn more about the difficulties faced by other societies, I can see that it would be a good thing if we all would take time to volunteer at one or two other societies' shows each year. We are all in this together and the more we help each other, the better our local orchid scene is. Take care, Chaunie



Kreg setting up his plants at the Santa Clara show



Paph. Delophyllum  
Dan Williamson



Paph. Gege Hughes x Paph. S. Gratrix  
Mike Green



Paph. Hsinying Majakun  
Rich Copeland and Martha Skalak



*Coelogyne cristata*  
Annie Green



Gloria and Evelyn hope I'll keep  
moving along.



Phrag. Don Wimber  
Sharon Langan



*Coelogyne pandurata* 'Rio Verde'  
Randall Takemoto-Hambleton



*Sedirea japonica*  
Randall Takemoto-Hambleton



Jon-Michael and Monica checking  
up on their refreshment table



Debra Atwood chats with Randall



*Den. jenkinsii* Chaunie Langland  
(it was at the show & each flower only lasts a week)



Cym. no name  
Randall Takemoto-Hambleton



Janusz - looking for those membership renewals!



*Aerangis fastuosa*  
Ginette Sanchou



*Den. quangxiense*  
Cordelia Wong



Milt. Bert Fields 'Eileen'  
Gloria Bygdnes



L to R first row Nancy H. and Karen B.  
second row Taik, Laura, and Joe (part of him)



*Max. chrysantha*  
Chaunie Langland



Paul R. and Todd plan their attack on the treats table



Mltndm. Cleo's pride  
Monica Irvin



Phal. Kuntrarti Rarashati 'Copperstate',  
HCC/AOS  
Cordelia Wong



Cymbidium  
Sydney Harbor  
Gloria Bygdnes



Above - *Max. sanguinea* Paul Reeve  
Left: Cym. Parrot's Pride #3  
Rich Copeland & Martha Skalak

### Member News



**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Cassandra Gaunt, Carl E. Jukkola, Glenda Derman, Karen Bartholomew, Dan Alvear, Eric Langland, Elizabeth Lee, Mark Khoo, Tanya Lam, Japheth Ko, Valerie Tonkin, Jocelyn Jamais, Elizabeth P. Lee, Ted Wuerthner, Don Creavy , and Michael Green.

**Welcome to New Members:** Carmelita Sagisi and Manuel Sagisi of Evergreen Home Garden and Ann Merics!

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### April Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will take place at Fresh Choice on El Camino in San Mateo - a very short drive from the Garden Center. The meeting begins at 5:00 PM - if you get to Fresh Choice before 5:00 you can get the early bird discount. Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.



## Upcoming Events

**April 17 - Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show and Sale** - San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Dr., San Mateo (yes, same place we have our meetings!) 10AM - 4PM - Free Admission. For more information call 408-741-2882 or go to [www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com](http://www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com)

**April 17 - Regional Meeting of the International Phalaenopsis Society** at the Sacramento Orchid Society Show. 2 PM.

**April 17-18 - Sacramento Orchid Society Show and Sale** - Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento - Sat. 10AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10AM - 4 PM - Admission \$5. For more information (916) 489-3263 or [www.sacramentoorchids.org](http://www.sacramentoorchids.org) Lectures Saturday 11:15 James Rose on Laelia anceps, 12:45 Alan Koch on Advanced Orchid Biology. Sunday - beginner level talks.

**May 1 & 2 - Carmel Orchid Society Annual MayFaire Show & Sale at CVGS** - 9 AM - 4 PM, at Hidden Valley Institute of Arts, 88 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village, 11 miles East of Highway 1, ADMISSION IS FREE, Lots of Free Parking. For more information go to [www.carmelorchidsociety.org](http://www.carmelorchidsociety.org) or [www.cvgardenclub.org](http://www.cvgardenclub.org), or [www.hiddenvalleymusic.org](http://www.hiddenvalleymusic.org), or contact Carolyn Salmon, COS Chairperson at 375-3748 or [cargie@yahoo.com](mailto:cargie@yahoo.com)

**May 7 - 9 - Orchid Society of California Mother's Day Weekend Show & Sale** - Noon to 6PM Friday, 10AM - 5PM Saturday & Sunday. Show information is posted at: <http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com/aboutshow>. The show will have AOS, CSA and ribbon judging. You are all invited to participate in the show. The general setup for the show will be on Friday, May 7th, 8AM to 1PM. You may bring your plants for judging or exhibition by 6PM Friday May 7th or 8:30AM Saturday May 8th. Judging will commence at 9AM Saturday, May 8th. A wide variety of blooming orchids and orchid related materials will be for sale. There will be an orchid plant drawings and presentations each day specializing in: Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Paphiopedilums, and Phalaenopsis.

NOW A  
TWO DAY  
EVENT

With Flower & Orchid Entries Due Friday, April 30



## Carmel Valley Garden Show

May 1 & 2, 2010 9am - 4pm  
at Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts

Judged Flower & Orchid Exhibit  
Plant & Orchid Sales Silent Auction & Raffle  
Field of Flowers Art Auction  
Lectures & Demos Art & Craft Vendors  
Volunteer Fire Department BBQ  
Children's Discovery Garden

FREE ADMISSION  
[www.cvgardenshow.com](http://www.cvgardenshow.com)  
or call 831-659-0934

Plus "Summer  
when it Sizzles"  
Sat Night Gala  
May 1, 6pm

## Mother's Day Weekend Orchid Sale & Show 2010



Artist: Jane Tsushima

ORCHID SOCIETY of CALIFORNIA  
FREE ADMISSION

Fri, May 7th, 12noon to 6pm  
Sat & Sun, May 8th & 9th, 10am to 5pm

Lakeside Garden Center (Lake Merritt)  
666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA 94610

› Demonstrations • Plant Doctors ◀

› Plant Judging ◀

Information:  
[www.OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com](http://www.OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com)



**Orchid Show  
& Plant Sale**  
April 17-18th, 2010

**"Gems of the Jungle"**  
**Scottish Rite Temple**  
6151 H Street Sacramento, CA 95819  
Just across from Sac State University  
Admission: \$5.00

Plenty of FREE PARKING  
Sat 10am - 5pm 63rd Annual Show  
Sun 10am - 4pm Hourly Door Prizes

**Sacramento Orchid Society**  
[www.SacramentoOrchids.Org](http://www.SacramentoOrchids.Org)  
info (916) 489-3263  
[www.SacOrchidShow.com](http://www.SacOrchidShow.com)



**Orchid Show  
& Plant Sale**  
April 17-18th, 2010

**"Gems of the Jungle"**  
featuring Orchid Exhibits & Plants,  
Free Seminars & How-To Classes,  
Orchids & Orchid Supplies for Sale,  
Live Butterfly Garden, Art Show, Food & Music

**Scottish Rite Temple**  
6151 H Street Sacramento, CA 95819  
Just across from Sac State University  
Plenty of FREE PARKING  
Admission \$5.00, info 916 489-3263

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**Sacramento Orchid Society**  
[www.SacramentoOrchids.Org](http://www.SacramentoOrchids.Org)  
[www.SacOrchidShow.com](http://www.SacOrchidShow.com)

Last year I did not get the AOS awards into the newsletter - hopefully this year will be better! Here are the POS member award winners of the first quarter of 2010:

### January

Slc. Sweet Treat 'First Date', HCC 75 exhibited by Japheth Ko  
(POS show AOS awards were reported in the February edition of The Sheath.)

### February

Paphiopedilum Fanaticum 'Jade Dragon', HCC 76 exhibited by Japheth Ko  
Cymbidium Melanie Webb 'Stirling', HCC 75 exhibited by Barry Zimmerman  
Cymbidium Satin Dragon 'Cinnabar', HCC 78 exhibited by Weegie Caughlan  
*Comparettia macroplecton*. 'Seo Ha', HCC 75 exhibited by Anna Chai  
*Cymbidium sinense* var *album*. 'Roshan', HCC 75 exhibited by Anna Chai  
*Acianthera braggae* 'Gilbert', CHM 82 (prov) exhibited by Carol Zoltowski  
Cymbidium John Wooden 'Geyserland', AM 80 exhibited by Japheth Ko  
*Masdevallia rufescens* 'X', AM 80 (prov) exhibited by Mary Gerritsen

### March

Paphiopedilum Stone Crazy 'Lisle B.', HCC 78 exhibited by Margaret and Terry Boomer

To see the photos and descriptions of these and other awarded plants go to <http://www.aospacificcentral.org/index.html>. AOS judging occurs at least twice each month, once in Oakland and once in San Francisco, as well as at many orchid shows. For more information go to the website above, or talk to any of our AOS judges at our meetings - if you don't know who they are, just ask Todd, Mary, Rene, myself, etc. to point them out.



### Unclassifieds

Members may advertise orchid related items. The ad is free. E-mail your ad to [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net) or mail to 878 Cashew Way, Fremont, CA 94536. Be sure to include your name and phone number. Ads must be received by the 1st of the month to be included that month's newsletter.

#### For Sale:

**Tanya Lam Orchid Supplies** - for all orchid growing needs

Plastic Pots, Clear Pots, Net Pot, Baskets, Fir Bark, Coconut Chips, Coir, Perlite, Lava Rock, Sphagnum Moss, Fertilizer, Hangers, Superthrive, Plant Clips, Cork Bark, Tree Fern Mount and many more items!

Contact Tanya Lam at 408-644-3996 or [tanyalam.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:tanyalam.orchids@gmail.com)

Free delivery to SCOVS, MOS, POS, OSC, SFOS Monthly Meetings

*Have you paid your 2010 dues?* The Sheath will not be sent out to anyone who has not renewed by May 5th.

Renewal forms can be found on the POS web site or at the meeting.

Please don't make me write those letters again this year. Please.

#### 2010 Board of Directors

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*Sheath Editor:* Chaunie Langland 510-494-8850 [the\\_sheath\\_editor@earthlink.net](mailto:the_sheath_editor@earthlink.net)

*Sheath Snail Mail Co-ordinator:* Jackie Becker

*Accountant:* Sue Rose 650-322-9853

*Web Editors:* Fred Cox & Cordelia Wong

Society Mailing Address: P.O.Box 6894

Website address: <http://penorchidsoc.org>

San Mateo, CA 94403-6894

*Make time to come to this month's  
meeting - I have heard that Bruce  
is a very entertaining speaker!*

*Peninsula Orchid Society  
The Sheath  
Chaunie Langland, Editor  
878 Cashew Way  
Fremont, CA 94536*