



THE SHEATH

Bruce Rogers |Kathy Barrett| Western Prairie Fringed Orchid

December 18th Zoom Meeting

6:45 PM Start logging into the meeting (link sent to members in an email).

7:00 PM Kathy Barrett on how to use OrchidRoots.com.

7:20 PM Announcements

7:30 PM Show & Tell

8:00 PM ish Bruce Rogers will entertain us with Magic Orchids

POS Facebook Page

Our Facebook page, Peninsula Orchid Society of San Mateo, has 1, 143 followers and 1, 033 likes. You can access our page without having a Facebook account by going to our website, penorchidsoc.org, and clicking on the link to Facebook on the main page.

You can also find newsletters back to 2008 on our website penorchidsoc.org.



Magic Orchids

Bruce Rogers, The Orchid Whisperer, will entertain us with stories of the medicinal orchids of Asia, special orchids that follow their own rules and ant orchids.

Bruce Rogers has been growing, hybridizing, and decorating with orchids for over 30 years. He began his professional career in the late 1970s when the City of Atlanta Parks Department hired him to work with its orchids in the greenhouses in Piedmont Park.

Returning to San Francisco after this endeavor, he was hired by the Rod McLellen Company as the head grower for the boarding department and to hybridize Vandas.



December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to: Kathy Barrett, Shirley Chan, Renee Euchner, Clint Evans, Hai Merfalen, Patricia Papa, Dave Tatro, Janusz Warszawski, Tom Waugh, Miva Wong and Audry Young-Tarter.

Did You Know?

A great Paphiopedilum for windowsill growers is the Maudiae type. These Paphs have beautiful mottled leaves and come in a variety of colors from white and green to deep burgundy. They do best in low light - either a north or east facing window. They will be happy to flower for you in this type of light. They are warm growers so the temperature in your home is likely to be perfect for them. These need to be repotted yearly, even if you use Orchidata bark. You should also add large perlite and some small or medium horticultural charcoal to your bark mix and pot in plastic pots. These Paphs will not do well if you let them completely dry out - be sure to water at least weekly.

In the early 1980s he left to start Bruce Rogers Orchids, an orchid consulting and management company based in San Francisco.

In 2002 Bruce joined Terry Root of The Orchid Zone and co-founded OzGardens, a business devoted exclusively to hybridizing and growing Sobralias.

Bruce's passion for orchids has made him one of the foremost authorities on orchid landscaping—the designing and creating of garden environments where orchids are integrated as a primary focus.

Bruce is on the Advisory Council at the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers and is the Ambassador for the San Francisco Orchid Society. He is the owner of Bruce Rogers orchids.

Our five raffle plants will come from Bruce's nursery. The drawing will be held at the end of the meeting for Peninsula Orchid Society members.

Skill Session

Learn how to use OrchidRoots.org to acquire more information about your orchids, presented by Kathy Barrett. Kathy has been growing orchids since 1994, making full use of the internet to learn as much as possible about orchids. She is a senior judge at the California Sierra Nevada Center and past co-chair of the publication board for 'Orchids' magazine.

Thank you to our 2020 cash donors

Elizabeth Lee

Jean Lee

Mariko Nagashima

Janet Reynolds in memory of Virginia Jensen

Sue Rose

A Nebraska Orchid Adventure! by Joseph Kautz

Elegant white ghosts haunt the seasonal wetlands of the vast undulating Sandhills of Central Nebraska in the month of July. These elusive Will-o'-the-Wisps are the Western Prairie Fringed Orchids (*Platanthera praeclara*). [The Eastern species is featured in the USPS Orchid Stamp Collection.](#) Impressive clusters of these terrestrial orchids appear among broadleaf cattails and a cacophony of other weeds in mid summer in [Nebraska's Sandhill Region](#) just south of the [Niobrara River](#). California boasts at least [six species of *Platanthera* orchids](#) comprised by the humble bog orchids. They are out shined by the Eastern and Western Prairie Fringed orchids east of the Rocky Mountains.



As a gift to myself for my July birthday I wanted to see these orchids in situ. So, on a rare trip back home to Western Nebraska this summer I headed northeast from my family's retail garden center (Gering Garden Center) to try to see these delicate native orchids for myself in the wild.



All I had to go on was a [map](#) of the orchid's huge range (North Central United States up to Central Canada) and the instructions of a wonderful Fish and Game warden from the [Valentine Wildlife Refuge](#).

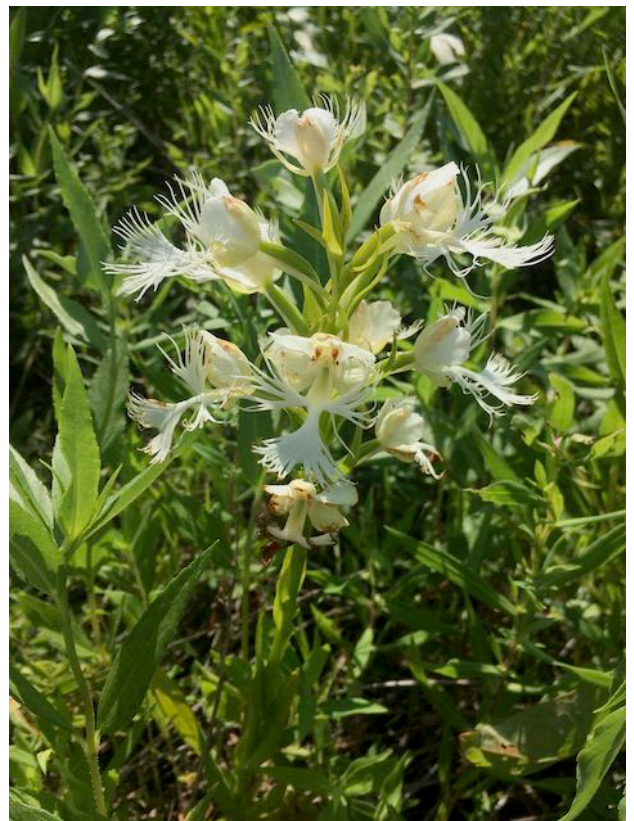
After a 6 hour drive, my birthday wish came true! A friendly game warden had given me directions that got me in the neighborhood, but it required a phone call and rendezvous with the warden to find the site.

Not by accident, the site was half a mile from where he had originally directed me. He parked his pickup and walked me over to a dense patch of broad leafed Cattails *Typha latifolia*, mixed weeds, and tall prairie grasses and pointed over a [barbed wire fence](#).

My eyes followed the trajectory of his index finger, and there they were!

Dozens of them rustling in the breeze in full bloom! I crossed the barbed wire and carefully positioned myself for photos. The area was under two inches of standing water left over from a [thunderstorm](#) the week before. The orchid columns were bruised, possibly from the headbutts of their [primary pollinators](#), [Sphinx Moths](#)., which are able to feed from the orchids' inch and half long nectaries.

It was worth the effort and I look forward to finding more native orchids in Nebraska: fragile beauties fluttering under endless blue skies in a sea of prairie grassland green.



From November Show & Tell!



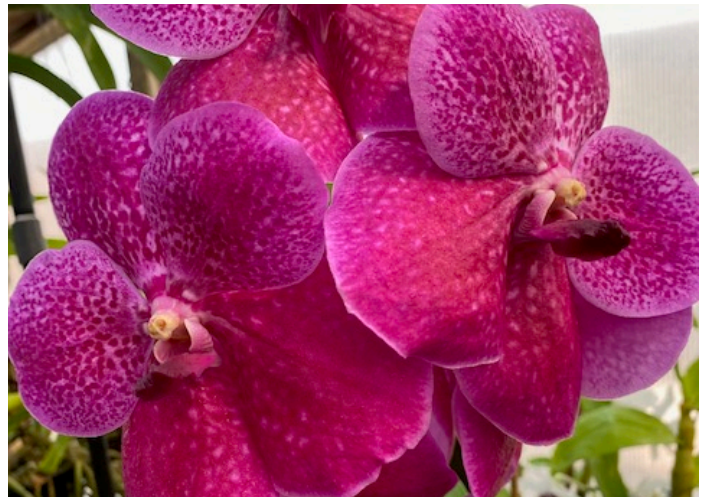
Bc Carnival Kids 'Green Gem' , Helena Wee



Habinaria medusa, Helena Wee



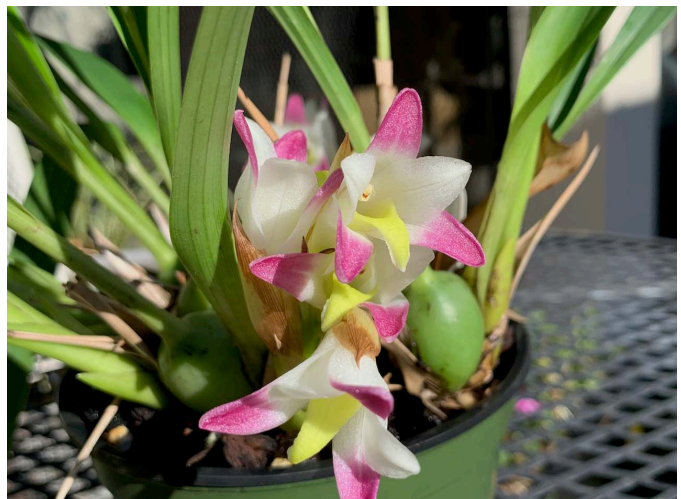
Dendrobium Green Lantern, Zach Coney



Vanda Robert's Delight 'Crownfox Big Red', Zach Coney



Dendrochilum magnum, Jeff Harris



Coelia bella, Chaunie Langland

More about Paphs

There is a very helpful webinar, available to AOS members on the AOS website, given by Dave Sorokowsky on growing Paphiopedilums. Paphs range in size from teacup, with large flowers on small plants, to the large multi-florals that can require more than two feet of space in your growing area. They also range in temperature needs from those that do best growing outdoors in the Bay Area to those that need to sit on a heat mat in your heated greenhouse. It all depends on where they grow naturally.



Some Paphs required even moisture at all times, some need a dryer winter period with lots of summer water. Many grow on rocks in nature, some grow on trees and some are terrestrial or semi-terrestrial. All of this requires that you understand what type of Paph you have in order to grow it well and be rewarded with those flowers you want!

There are Paphs that bloom once per year, though the blooms tend to last for around 2 months, and others that are sequential bloomers that may be in bloom for more than a year on a single inflorescence. Fortunately, while the sequential bloomers require brighter light than the Maudiae type, they also like home temperatures, so are a good choice for windowsill growers. Grow them near a south or west facing window with window sheers to prevent them from getting direct sun while still providing bright light.

Paph leaves come in two basic color types. Even green and mottled leaves with darker and lighter green areas. Many people love the attractive mottled leaves for year-round enjoyment. A rule of thumb is that the mottled leaved paphs require less light than the plain green leaved paphs. There are, as always, exceptions.

The flowers also come in different textures. Some are thick and waxy, other are matte and soft with sepals and petals that are almost transparent and everything in between.

You have two ways to approach adding Paphs to your orchid collection. (Actually this is true of any orchid you buy.) You can look at the conditions you can provide and then search for plants that you like and that will do well in your conditions. Reputable sellers or your fellow orchid society members are your best bets for good advice. Or you can decide that you want to have THAT orchid, learn what it needs and spend the money and time to provide the conditions it needs. This may mean adding grow lights and/or a barrier to allow you to maintain higher humidity or building a greenhouse.



Greenhouse Safari!

People love to see others growing spaces. It helps them understand what they need to do to get their “problem” orchids to perform better and gives them ideas for their own current or future growing spaces. And it is just fun to see all of those orchids!

For our February meeting we will show videos of our members growing spaces and greenhouses. Whether you have three Phalaenopsis on a windowsill, a fancy indoor growing space with lights and humidity control, an outdoor shelter of some type (front porch, lath house, patio), a home greenhouse or you lease commercial greenhouse space, we want your videos (or even a photo or two) of your growing space.

You can record your voice on your video or you can arrange to talk while your video is being shown.

I recommend that you do a few trial runs to figure out how you want to approach your space and which orchids you want to feature. Go slow and as steady as possible, stop at flowers and count to 3 or more so people have a chance to actually see them. If you are using your phone then tap on the flower on your screen to get your phone to bring the flower into focus. You want to give your phone a chance to adjust for the light and focus so people can actually see your lovely flower instead of a blur of color.

You may want to write a script after you have done your trial runs. Include the name of the flowers you focus on and if you have some information to share about light exposure, temperature, watering or anything else include that in your narration.

I will let you know how to send the videos to me (email won't cut it) in the January newsletter.
Chaunie

Congratulations to our November Raffle winners

Five winners were drawn for plants from Pierre Pujol's collection at the conclusion of our November meeting. Congratulations to: Joan Chow, Mike Drilling, Olga Ostrovsky, Mariko Nagashima and Neal Winslow. Mike Rector is back in town and is busy working to co-ordinate the plant pick-up or delivery.

All current POS members who attend the Zoom meeting and stay through the drawing are eligible for the drawing at no cost, excluding board members who elected to not be eligible this year since we only have five plants instead of our usual 20. Anyone may join POS by the day prior to the meeting and be eligible for the drawing.

Name and address change

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers have changed their name to Gold Coast Cymbidium Society, Inc. They meet on the third Friday of the month and we will be holding a joint meeting with them this month. Their new email address is goldcoastcymbidiumsocietyinc@gmail.com.

On the mend

Long time POS member **Trudy Hadler** is home again after a long and difficult recovery from a fall. She is not able to get out and about and would love to hear from you by phone (510) 483-1277 or by mail 15045 Grenda St, San Leandro CA 94579. You could make her day by sending Hanukkah cards or New Years cards or Hello cards, a letter if you have time to write one. Trudy has served on the POS board and is an AOS accredited judge. She is also a long time member of Gold Coast Cymbidium Society and California Orchid Society.

Also recovering, from Covid, is **Jospeh Kautz**, the author of this months article on the Western Prairie Fringed Orchids. Shoot him an email at jjbirdr@yahoo.com.

Gone this year

Peninsula Orchid Society lost two past members in 2020.

Virginia Jensen was a POS member from 1977 to 1995. Virginia was known by friends and family as “the orchid lady”. She was born on November 16, 1918 in Kearney, Nebraska and passed on November 3, 2020. She traveled to Palo Alto, California in 1938, with her sister and brother-in-law, in a Model A Ford to marry George Jensen, also originally from Nebraska. George had traveled to California on top of trains and by hitch-hiking.

George and Virginia built a home in Palo Alto and Virginia lived there until she was 99. Then she moved into assisted living and enjoyed the activities offered there. Virginia belonged to Gamble Gardens, Filoli, and Florets Garden Club in Palo Alto as well as to POS. She grew a wide variety of orchids in her greenhouse.



Weegie Caughlan remembers Virginia being active in putting together displays at our shows.

Jerry Rodder was a well known POS member. Maybe he could even be qualified as famous for his amazing orchids. My mother-in-law and I would meet him in the parking lot at POS meetings in the 1990s to buy Jerry's Grow aka Jerry's Orchid Rocket Fuel, fertilizer of his own making. Jerry was famous for the enormous size and floriferousness of the orchids he grew.

Jerry and his wife Jill won The Barbara Todd Kennedy Perpetual Trophy for the Best Entry in Show at the 2015 POS show with Blc. Pamela Hetherington. They also earned 22 AOS awards between 1997 and 2011. Most of the awards were for orchids in the Cattleya group, but they also earned awards for Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Phragmipediums and a Paphiopedilum. Thirteen CCMs (Cultural Certificate of Merit, which go to the grower rather than the plant), five AMs (Award of Merit for flower quality) and four HCCs (Highly Commended Certificate for flower quality).

Jerry passed away on Fathers Day, June 21, this year. Jill had preceded him in March of 2018. I recently learned about Jerry's passing from Kevin Brummel, president of Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society. He was also able to direct me to a webpage that had more information about Jerry and Jill, written by a friend they had made during their early morning swims. I learned a lot more about Jerry's amazing life. <https://surfingforbalance.com/2020/09/03/swimming-with-jerry/> There are many nice photos of Jerry and Jill in the online remembrance.

Jill and Jerry were part of a year round 5am swim group for many years. There is a photo of Jill waiting outside the pool gate, in the dark, with the rest of the group, holding a bouquet of roses on her 80th birthday. Jerry was an expert classical pianist and he was the holder of 17 patents granted between 1976 and 2016 related to medical devices, orchid growing and fire suppression. And that is a pretty brief summary considering all of the things they did.

Dues are due!

Remember, dues for 2021 are payable any time now and are due January 1. You may renew using the Paypal link on our website <http://penorchidsoc.org/membership.html> or by sending a check with any changes in email address, residential address or phone number to Janusz Warszawski, 1227 Monte Verde Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024. Our 2021 Membership Chair is Olga Ostrovsky. Because we are not meeting in person it makes sense to send membership checks directly to our treasurer to be deposited. There is a membership form available at the end of this newsletter if you have any changes in name, address, email or phone number.

Orchid Book recommendation

Sent by Steve Kirby (long time POS member)

Some Society members may already be aware of this newly-published book on the Pleurothallids. I own a copy and it fills a previously-empty space on my bookshelf on this fascinating group of orchids. It is also the most beautifully-illustrated orchid book that I have ever seen. Worth every penny of its cost.

We want to remind everyone that Pleurothallids Neotropical Jewels Vol. 1 is still available in case you would like to help us spread the joy this holiday season.

The book is the ideal Christmas present for any orchid enthusiast. With more than 500 Neotropical species illustrated in a thousand photographs, from the amateur to experts, the it has something for everyone!!!

The books are already in the hands of our wonderful distributors located in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, USA, UK and the Netherlands. Orders placed now will arrive on time for Christmas. Tell your friends!!!

Available at: <https://orchilibra.com/posts/shop>

Orchid Digest and American Orchid Society are excellent sources for orchid books that, hold on to your hats, may not be available on Amazon.

Also, Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons have a new, revised edition of their “A Complete Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species” coming out soon. This edition will be printed in a set of four books instead of two as the original version. Should be easier to carry.

Join the American Orchid Society!

The AOS will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary in 2021. This is a great time to become a member. Membership for one year is \$79 with print and digital Orchids magazine, \$54 with digital access only to Orchids magazine.

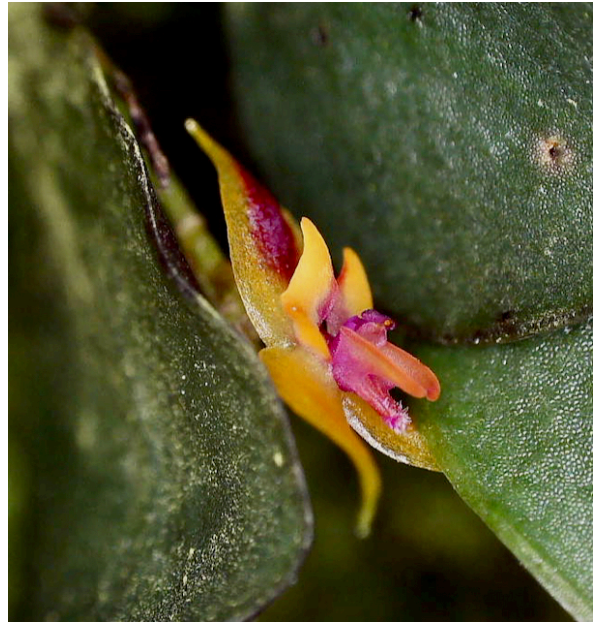
Included in your membership, in addition to Orchids magazine, are access to well over 100 on-demand webinars, OrchidPro, twice yearly members meetings, and savings on AOS awards and publications.

All past editions of Orchids Magazine (and it predecessors) are now online and information is available by search.

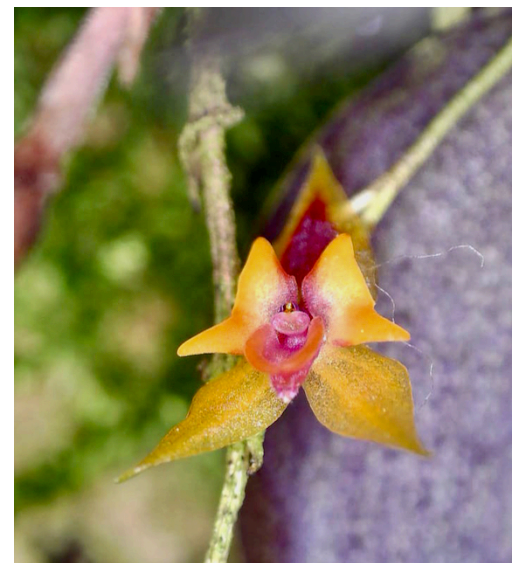
<https://www.aos.org> to join today!

Lepanthes maxillaris is a warm to hot growing tiny species from Ecuador. The brightly colored successive flowers, approx. 6mm x 4mm, grow on the back of the leaf. Fortunately I pick this up off the rack to water it or I would never know when it is blooming. If you want to see any detail instead of a little splash of bright color, you will need to magnify the flower. I took my plant inside to look at it under my USB microscope which allows me to see the flower on my laptop screen.

Let's see, maxillaris has max in it, shouldn't that mean it is really large? I look on the internet and see maxillaris is something like "of the jaw" so probably refers to something about the flower form. But what specifically? I should be able to tell you more. I pick up Vol. 2 of Parsons and Gerritsen's (Ron and Mary to you and me) miniature orchid species book to look up the etymology (how it got its name). My *Lepanthes* isn't in their book. How can that be? I pick up the Alrich & Higgins "Compendium of Orchid Genera" to see if they can help me. Well, it turns out there are over a thousand known *Lepanthes* species. This explains how Ron and Mary missed including this one in their book. I pick up Dodson's "Native Ecuadorian Orchids, Vol. III. I am immediately distracted by the fabulous photos of *Telepogons*, which we really can't grow here, but oh how I would love to see them! I do learn that in 2002 there were about 700 known *Lepanthes* species, over half them native to Ecuador. Anyway, all I have for you are the photos I took with my microscope.



Chaunie



2021 Peninsula Orchid Society
Membership Application or Renewal

Write checks payable to: POS

Mail to: Janusz Warszawski – POS Membership
1227 Monte Verde Ct., Los Altos CA 94024

(Membership chairperson for 2021 is Olga Ostrovsky - checks are being mailed directly to the treasurer)

Member Information (Please Print):

Name(s) (1) _____ BirthMonth _____

(2) _____ BirthMonth _____

Address: _____

_____ ZipCode _____

Phone: _____

Please Note: We need your current e-mail address to send you *The Sheath*. Also, you will receive last minute information about orchid related events if we have your e-mail address. Your contact information is never shared except in an annual directory sent only to current POS members.

E-mail: (1) _____

(2) _____

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$20.00 Additional Member same household \$10.00
- Payments can be made by Paypal on POS website penorchidsoc.org/membership.html

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Everyone is encouraged to renew before the end of January each year.

Membership Chair's area

Date paid _____ Check No. and amount _____

Receipt No. _____ Cash Amount _____