

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

BULBOPHYLLUMS IN THE PHILLIPINES

BILL THOMS

Early start: 6:30 PM

Bill gives talks nationally and internationally on a wide range of topics ranging from his specialty, Bulbophyllums, to General Orchid Culture which is a favorite of most new growers. They all are presented in a funny style that helps growers understand how the plants work and they all revolve around the Culture of Orchids. He helps the beginner grower with lots of advice about fixing problems and has a wealth of accumulated information for the more advanced grower, too!

This meeting, the talk will be on Bill's trip to the Philippines in 2009 where he climbed mountains (sort of) and risked life and limb (maybe) to bring back a new species of orchid which will be shown at the meeting (true story). It is a wonderful and interesting journey into the deep jungles to see new orchids in their natural habitat. Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard. See for yourself.

He has published a new book, Bulbophyllums: the Incomplete Guide, From A to WHY? (\$65) And has a 5-year-long EBook of almost every aspect of orchid growing and showing. Tons of videos of orchids growing under all sorts of conditions, repotting, fixing problems and lots of other stuff. It also has a 1500-photo folder with the most detailed photos you have ever seen. (\$69.95).

Attendees get a 20% discount on the book and the EBook with Promo Code POS until the end of the month.



MEETING DETAILS

6:15pm Zoom opens

6:30pm Bill Thoms

7:30pm Announcements and
By-laws vote

7:40pm Skill session on AQs

7:50pm Show & Tell

End of meeting - plant
drawing

REMINDER

Our general meetings are the
fourth Friday of every month,
except for December when it's
the third Friday.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KEN JACOBSEN

Spring is always fun when you're an orchid grower. All your plants should be in vigorous growth right now, with new leads forming and maturing, and the roots developing long green tips. Many of your Spring bloomers should be putting on a real show, which always makes going into the growing area a lot of fun. It's a great time to visit other growers (socially distant, of course) to see what they have in bloom. This is one of the best times of year to explore new possibilities in your orchid growing as you see genera that are new, to you, blooming.

Another great resource is the American Orchid Society. I know many within our club are already members, but if you aren't a member, check out the [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org) website, and the American Orchid Society Facebook page. There are a ton of photos every day on the Facebook page, so it's a wonderful way of seeing new plants, and finding out from the grower the conditions in which they raised these plants. Most posters are quite free with information. The website has a wide range of information, from cultural tips, to vendors, to pre-recorded and live seminars. The variety of information available to you on the website does depend on if you're an AOS member or not. Almost everything is open to those with an e-membership (web access only, and no paper magazine), and it's quite economical.

As more people in the Bay Area are vaccinated, we get closer and closer to once again being able to meet in person. It's almost certain that we'll have an in-person meeting in June. More information on this will be communicated at the April meeting. We do know that in-person attendees would be required to have full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within the 72 hours before the meeting, per the San Mateo Garner Center.

Once we do go back to in-person meetings, we are still intending to make the meetings available by Zoom as well. Some testing has been done to check how best to do this, and more will be done. We will learn a lot from our first dual venue meeting, so I'm sure we'll become good at this over time. There's still discussion whether we want to record the Zoom portion of these meetings (if there are no objections by the speaker), and feedback from members of the club on this topic would be appreciated.

As always, this is your club. The board members are here to help things go smoothly, and to ensure the club functions the way you want it to function. If you have ideas or comments, send them to us. I haven't received suggestions in the past three months, so seriously, send them!

Happy growing,
Ken

Top: Cattleya Marissa Kabu (C. Orpetii x C. Serria Doll), Chaunie Langland
Middle: Maxillaria picta, Mike Rector
Bottom: Microterangis hildibrandtii, Chaunie Langland

MEMBER NEWS

RAFFLE WINNERS AT MARCH MEETING

Congratulations to the plant raffle winners at our March meeting: Ann Benninger, Joan Chow, Sandi Gaunt, Ken Jacobsen, Mark Khoo, Japheth Ko, Sarah Magnuski, Mariko Nagashima, Olga Ostrovsky, Steve Proschan, Mike Rector, Roey Shaviv, Tom Waugh, Linda Wong and Sharon Wong.

During the pandemic we have been spending \$100 for each raffle table. The number of plants we have depends on what we are able to purchase for that amount either from the speaker or from someone local. Jurahame of The Orchid Fix Nursery sent an extremely generous plant table that included not only a large number of orchids, but also a significant number of those were either in flower or in bud. He also donated the shipping cost. We are very grateful for his generosity. This would have been an exceptional table even if we had paid the \$200 we normally do when people are able to purchase tickets to help off-set the cost.

APRIL RAFFLE & RULES CLARIFICATION

This month's raffle plants will come from the greenhouse of our Past President (several times) **Dennis Olivas**. Dennis is letting us have 15 plants. Again, very generous! You will need to go to his greenhouse in Daly City to pick up your plant if you win. You may also shop while you are there if you like. You need to stay on the Zoom meeting for the drawing. One entry per family membership.

BY-LAWS UPDATE - VOTE AT APRIL MEETING

The POS board recently updated our Peninsula Orchid Society bylaws as they had not been reviewed in a number of years. Any questions, comments or concerns are welcome. Please send to mklkhoo@gmail.com. We will have the membership vote to approve the bylaws at our general membership meeting in April. The proposed changes will be sent to you in a separate email early in the week.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- May speaker: Gary Yong Gee will talk to us from Australia about Australian terrestrial orchids. They are some of the most brilliantly colored and fantastically formed orchids in the world. See his website at <https://www.yonggee.name>.

Newsletter editors: Isis Trenchard and Chaunie Langland

Happy birthday

Greg Corales
Don Creevy
Cassandra Gaunt
Lynne Gentry
Mike Green
Carl Jukkola
Mark Khoo
Japheth Ko
Eric Langland
Elizabeth Lee
Katy Waugh



2021 Board of Directors

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MAKING AN ORCHID LOG

KEN JACOBSEN

Sometimes we have a plant that grows extremely well, flowers reliably, has short rhizomes and is overall, just a very desirable plant. For vigorous plants like this, we could give pieces to all our friends (who give pieces to their friends, and so on), we could become comfortable with throwing out the excess pieces, or we could try mounting pieces of that plant on a log, making ourselves an orchid log.

Creating an orchid log isn't really difficult, but it does take time, care and patience. Once all the materials are in hand, one can be assembled in a few hours, and will provide enjoyment for many, many years. The good news is that that overly vigorous plant won't have to be repotted again as long as the log continues to thrive, which could be 20 years or more.

It's worth a try. If you have questions, perhaps we'll do this as a skill session some month.

Happy growing!

Ken



Left: I've found that starting with large oak bark tubes is much better than starting with large oak bark flats, as there's a lot more control over the size and shape of the pieces that come in the shipment. Here we see part of a shipment of 60 pounds of large oak tubes that came from Maryland Cork Company. Note that although the oak bark is not very expensive, shipment costs almost as much as the oak bark itself.

Middle: This tube is about three feet long and one foot in diameter. Although the shape is great, I chose to hold this tube for future use.

Right: This is the tube I chose for the mounting work I had in mind. It's just short of four feet in length, and about 10 inches in diameter.



Left: Obviously, I only mount pieces of plants on the upper half of a tube. Because of this, I split the tube lengthwise into two pieces, which can then both be used as top halves of a tube. Either a table saw, or a reciprocating saw, can be used to split the tube lengthwise.

Middle: I want these logs to last a long, long time. Because oak cork can degrade over time, I provide support in back of the tube to support it for longer life. What I use is either three- or four-inch diameter ABS soil pipe, depending on the oak cork tube diameter. ABS soil pipe is heavy duty, easy to use, relatively inexpensive, and can be sawn and drilled with ease.

Right: I saw the ABS soil pipe into two halves, lengthwise. For this, it's best to use a table saw as there's better control.



Top left: The ABS soil pipe is trimmed in length so it's just slightly shorter than the cork tube. It's best if the soil pipe isn't visible in the finished orchid log.

Top right: The soil pipe section is temporarily attached to the underside of the oak cork tube using heavy screws. These will hold the two pieces together as other work is done.

Middle left: Heavy duty eye bolts, with nuts, are used for the permanent attachment. These will both tie the oak cork tube and the ABS soil pipe together, and provide anchor points to attach hangers. I've found that the eye bolts need to have a four-inch bolt portion, and be at least 1/4 inch in diameter to work well. Shorter eye bolts won't have enough length to attach the nuts to the bolts.

Middle right: Holes are drilled through the oak cork tube and the underlying ABS soil pipe, then the bolts are placed through both parts and the nuts tightened on the bottom. Once all four bolts are placed and the nuts tightened, the screws used to temporarily hold the two pieces together can be removed.

Bottom right: Here are the two oak cork log mounts made from a single tube ready for plant pieces to be mounted.





Top left: This is a *Laelia anceps* plant after repotting. There aren't enough pieces left in this plant for mounting on a log, but before it was repotted, there could have been.

Top right: This *Laelia anceps* was repotted two years ago, and is now badly overgrown. This plant is a great candidate for log culture, since it's vigorous, tends to send up at least two new growths from each of the prior year's growths, has shorter rhizomes, and is a prodigious rooter.

Bottom left: These pieces came from a single plant and are ready for repotting. The plant was divided into two and three bulb front pieces, with some of the existing roots still attached to help anchor the pieces.

Bottom right: A typical piece of the plant ready for mounting. Note that root growth has started, but is not yet vigorous, which is what is typical in early Spring. The swelling eyes where new growth will start are also obvious.



Top: The first piece tied onto the tube. I use 20-pound test monofilament fishing line in 500 yard or larger spools to tie on the pieces. The fishing line is available at most sporting goods stores, and is inexpensive. It's often good to have a helper when tying on the pieces, as it seems to require three hands.



Left: The log now has all the pieces mounted on it. It becomes harder and harder to tie on more pieces, as there are more pieces to avoid while mounting the next one. Also note the hangers. These are heavy duty 24-inch, 4 wire hangers with two wires through each eye bolt. Since a mature log is very heavy, heavy duty wire hangers are important.

Bottom: This *Laelia anceps* was repotted about a month before the photo was taken. Note the active root growth. This is what we need to happen to successfully start a log, so timing of the mounting process is critical to success.





Top: A *Laelia anceps* log about 4 ½ years after the original mounting. The log itself is no longer visible, nor are the eye hooks where the hangers are attached. This three-foot-long log now weighs over 50 pounds when wet.

Right: Another view of the same log.





Left: Other genera can also be used, as long as they're vigorous rooters, and have short rhizomes. This is a single plant of *Laelia lundii* and has been on its mount for seven or eight years. For this plant, side pieces of oak cork bark had to be added, as the plant totally overgrew the original log section.

Bottom: *Sophranitis (Cattleya) coccinea* also works very well for this type of mounting, usually for entire plants in one piece, and in much smaller versions of what has been described. This is *Sophranitis coccinea* 'Gracie' and it's on a piece of cork about 12 inches in diameter. In the background can be seen other smaller plants that eventually may need a larger mount.



MAKING AN ORCHID LOG ADDENDUM



Photo by Chaunie Langland

After four or five years of growing an orchid log, the reward can be stunning. Here's a log of *Laelia anceps* 'Belleza Oscura' in bloom five years after first mounting the divisions of the plant on the log.

If you ever decide to move your orchid log, make sure you have 1) a large enough vehicle and 2) a friend to help you move it! 😊

(Pictured: Ken Jacobsen left, Jim Salyards of Filoli right, at Filoli in February 2020.)

Pacific Central Judging Center will hold orchid judging at Filoli again on Saturday, May 15. Judging takes place outdoors with masks and social distancing. Plant entry begins at 9:00 AM and judging at 9:30 AM. No cost to enter Filoli for AOS judging or to have your orchid judged. (There is a fee if your orchid is awarded.) If you want to tour Filoli gardens you need to purchase tickets and you need to purchase them well in advance as they have been selling out regularly. For more information contact Ken Jacobsen or Chaunie Langland or visit <http://www.pacentraljc.org>

Below: Weegie Caughlan won an Award of Quality for her *Cymbidium* cross Hazel's Dragon at the April 17 AOS judging at Filoli. Photo by Ken Jacobsen



Filoli April 17 PCJC judging results -37 plants submitted for judging resulting in 13 awards! Details and all photos on the Pacific Central Judging Center website www.paccentraljc.org



Photos by Chaunie Langland

