

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY



FRIDAY, MAY 28

AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIALS

GARY YONG GEE

Gary Yong Gee [surname Yong Gee] is an Australian born Chinese, and lives in Brisbane, Australia. He began growing orchids around 40 years ago. These days, he maintains a large hobby greenhouse, cultivating Australian native, and exotic species. He has over 100,000 orchid photographs taken on travels to parts of Australia, New Guinea, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, South Africa, and Madagascar, at shows, and in situ. Gary is a judge with the Australian Orchid Council. He is also a member of several Australian orchid societies, the American Orchid Society, and the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

Gary's main interest is species orchids. He has contributed an extensive monthly article to the Orchid Species Bulletin, published by the Orchid Species Society, for over 30 years. Gary has also written occasional articles for Orchids Australia, and the Australian Orchid Review; and given numerous talks to various orchid societies. He has a website, which shows some of his photographs at www.yonggee.name

"Australian Terrestrial Orchids" will feature a varied selection of species, which are found in Australia. Many of the terrestrial genera are unique to that part of the world, including a bizarre genus of underground orchid. Most of those terrestrial orchids are usually not amenable to cultivation. Although, some of the species of *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods) have been successfully grown. Many of the orchids have evolved a fascinating mode of pollination.

6:45pm Meeting sign in opens
 7:00pm Australian Terrestrials
 8:00pm Announcements
 8:10pm Skill Session
 8:30pm Show and Tell
 8:50pm Plant giveaway
 Schedule not set in stone -
 speaker may not go first
 Check your email for the Zoom
 link.

REMINDER

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KEN JACOBSEN



Here it is mid-May already – Spring is more than half way through. By now your early Spring bloomers will be fading, so it's time to get busy and repot the Cymbidiums, Spring blooming Cattleyas, Sarcophilus and anything else that blooms in the Spring followed closely by new root action. It's an active time if you want to keep your plants happy and have them do their best next year, but we can all look forward to the Summer blooming orchids being hot on the heels of our labors.

Speaking of Summer blooming orchids, it isn't too early to start preparing a few plants to show or sell at our one day show and sale on August 8. If you're like me, you usually have some Cattleya (Laelia) purpuratas and tenebrosas in bloom at that time of the Summer, so give your special plants a little extra room, and let us all enjoy them with you.

As you've noticed, our Ways and Means Director, Mark Khoo, procured some bags of Kiwi bark for members of the club. Originally, the thought was that this would be available for sale on August 8 at our one-day show, but he's already down to just three bags. If this is something you think the club should do again, please let Mark know, and we'll see what we can do. We also tried to procure bulb pans and four-wire hangers for repotting, but Farrand Enterprises, where we used to get these materials, is no longer in business. Very few other vendors carry what members have said they need, and right now these types of materials are all in ships somewhere waiting to be unloaded. We'll continue trying to find alternate sources, but for the next few months it doesn't look promising. Saving, cleaning and sterilizing old pots for reuse may become a necessity!

Right now, we're looking at having our first dual meeting, in person and over Zoom, in June. Of course, we will be watching the news and make changes as needed, but right now it looks very promising. It will be great to see everyone again, if only from the eyes up. We'll communicate the then current rules for meeting at the Garden center as the June meeting approaches.

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've only received one suggestion in the past three months, and this resulted in a POS Facebook group, so seriously, send them!

Happy growing,
Ken

Top: *Dendrobium thysiflorum*, Jeff Harris

Middle: *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum*, Mike Rector

Bottom: *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS, Zach Coney

MEMBER NEWS

RAFFLE WINNERS AT APRIL MEETING

Congratulations to the plant raffle winners at our April meeting: Ann Benninger, Mary Bui-Pham, Anne Green, Jeff Harris, Chaunie Langland, Sarah Magnuski, Olga Ostrovsky, Susan Tong, Tom Waugh (2 plants!), Bill Weaver, Helena Wee, Linda Wong, Audrey Young-Tartar and Claire Zvanski. All of the attending members who wanted plants won plants thanks to Dennis Olivas' generosity.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- June speaker: Robert Marsh and or Dennis Szezko will talk about Barkerias.
- July speaker: Bill Thoms will talk about general orchid culture.

AUGUST 8TH SHOW AND SALE

We are busily visualizing how this will work at the San Mateo Garden Center. If you have suggestions or would like to help let Ken or Chaunie know. We will not have grower levels, formal classes or ribbon judging. We are planning to have show visitors vote for winners in four categories. But we would like suggestions on what those categories might be! The prize for each categorie winner will be a stemless AOS Centennial wine glass.

Our goals for the show are to have fun, to make a little money on the member plant sales, to have fun, to educate people about orchids, to have fun, to attract new members and to have fun.

We will have AOS (American Orchid Society) judging at the show. It costs nothing to have your orchid judged, but it does cost you money if your orchid wins an award.

If your orchid is awarded all of the information about it, including photo, goes into OrchidPro on the AOS website.

GET IN TOUCH!

Remember - or learn for the first time - we have two ways you can communicate with POS members. We have a Google Group for members (email Chaunie at chaunie@cluemail.com) and we have a FaceBook Group (seperate from our FB page) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2933442903415569>. Just ask to join the FB group on FB. You are welcome to post orchid photos, questions, information about upcoming events on either of these sites.

You can also contact POS by emailing penorchidsoc@yahoo.com . That email is accessed by only three people, and is checked weekly.

Join the newsletter team!

We are currently producing the newsletter on Canva. We welcome members to join us by taking on production of a section of the newsletter. Let Isis or Chaunie know if you are interested!

Happy birthday

Greg Corrales
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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penorchidsoc@yahoo.com



Phalaenopsis Pylo's Delight, Mariko Nagashima

Terrestrial Orchids

by Chaunie Langland



This *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes* was last repotted in 2015. As a terrestrial orchid it is grown in potting soil rather than bark. The roots are about the size of my baby finger in diameter. Kind of scary looking when you are used to the roots of epiphytes. Still, they were somewhat pliable.

This flowers in late winter/early spring with two to three foot high inflorescences sporting many odd looking green flowers that are somewhat snap dragon shaped. When not in flower this doesn't take up much space, has sparkling leaves and does very well in low light. It is a great houseplant.

The flowers had just turned brown and the new growths were starting, perfect time for repotting.

I cut off the inflorescences, of course cutting into one of the new growths. Then I removed all of the old soil and pulled gently on the plant to see where it would divide, ending up with four pieces, three with old growths and new growths plus one good sized new growth.

I potted them up using some fancy terrestrial soil mix I bought a while ago from reptime.com but there wasn't enough for all of the pots. I got out my Miracle Grow potting soil and found that it looks just like the reptime mix - peat, small perlite and some sand - but with some time release fertilizer pellets added.

The leaves from last year's growth will turn brown and dry up leaving only the new growths by the time flowering occurs next winter.



Places to Go, Things to Do, Sightings to See

May 15 - AOS judging at Filoli Historic House 9:00 AM - plant entry, 9:30 AM judging begins. Bring your beautiful orchids for judging - no cost to enter Filoli to come to judging, no cost for plant entry, there is a cost if your orchid wins an award. If you would like to tour the Filoli grounds you need to purchase tickets. Please be aware that they sell out early. We will be judging outdoors, either by the greenhouses or on a patio - check <http://www.pacentraljc.org> the evening of May 14 for directions or call Chaunie at 510-494-8850 on May 14. Masks and social distancing will be required.

May 23 - Santa Clara Valley Open Greenhouse Sale

Contact each of the four growers to get the address and hours.

Tanya Lam: tanya.lam@gmail.com or text her at 408-599-9903. She is open to visits on other weekends this month also.

Ann Stuart: annystuart@yahoo.com All proceeds go to SCVOS.

Mike Warfield: mjwarfield@comcast.net

SCVOS plants: hosted at Mike Warfield's, contact Mike (above) or Kevin kbrummel@aol.com

Jerry Rodder Collection divisions will be available from SCVOS including several varieties of *C. purpurata*, other *Cattleya* species and hybrids, as well as 12" bulb pans and coconut coir/peat. 100% of the proceeds go to SCVOS.

June 1 - San Francisco Orchid Society meeting - "Why Aren't My Orchids Blooming and other tips" by a surprise guest speaker. To attend the SFOS Zoom meeting as a guest contact Chaunie Langland by May 31.

With everyone meeting via Zoom these days it is easy to attend meetings of any society that has a speaker or topic that interests you. All societies welcome guests.



Dendrobium loddigesii,
Chaunie Langland

Dendrobium leucocyanum,
Jeff Harris

Cymbidium Golden Valley,
Mark Khoo

Bulbophyllum bootanoides,
Mike Rector

Cattleya Sun Circle,
Chaunie Langland

Dendrobium pierardii,
Mariko Nagashima

