

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY



NEOFINETIA: HISTORY AND CULTURE

Friday, September 24
6:30pm

Jason Fischer

Jason Fischer helps manage Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota USA with his father Jerry Fischer. Orchids Ltd. opened in 1978. Orchids Ltd. is a mid-sized operation of 4 greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, a shade house, and laboratory located in Plymouth, MN.

Jason has had a life-long education in orchids mainly from the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. Jason's educational interests were strongly influenced by Japan. He studied the Japanese language and culture for 6 years in high school and at the University of Minnesota. Jason lived in Kyoto, Japan from 2001 to 2003, and upon return decided to import Japanese orchid species and add a new niche to the business.

Having worked for his father since the age of 5, Jason has learned the orchid world from the business and hobbyist's perspective. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on led to paphs, phrags and miscellaneous hybrids.

Jason's first lecture on *Neofinetia falcata* at the Minnesota Orchid Society in 2004 was the kick-off for an international speaker's circuit which went on until 2020. Now, Jason presents via Zoom as remote lectures have become the new standard. He has a passion for orchids, and the communication skills he developed in Japan as an English teacher have helped him create interesting lectures that won't put the audience to sleep!

Jason enjoys photographing orchids in situ, and has photographed orchids in situ in Japan, North America, Singapore, Malaysia and Western Australia. His main interests include hybridizing *Vanda falcata* varieties and *Phragmipedium*

- Has lectured for over 40 different orchid societies in the US, Japan, Canada, Australia & New Zealand.
- Speaker for the 19th & 20th World Orchid Conferences in Miami & Singapore
- Speaker at 19th Australian Orchid Council Conference 2012, Perth
- Speaker for the 7th New Zealand National Orchid Expo 2013
- Coordinated the Orchids Limited laboratory from 1998 to 2000
- Currently in management, breeding and marketing for Orchids Limited

Meeting details

6:00pm Garden Center doors and Zoom opens

6:30pm Jason Fischer

7:10pm Announcements

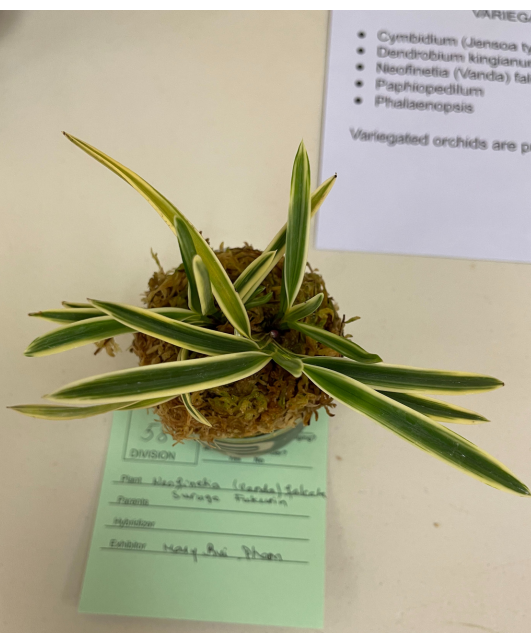
7:20pm Skill session - winterize your orchids

7:40pm 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

Fall is upon us, so as orchidists this brings up a long list of tasks related to keeping our plants safe and growing well over the winter. It's the time of year to finish up repotting, although I know that for some of us this is a never-ending chore. If you're still repotting, hopefully it's plants like *Laelia purpurata* that have a fall flush of roots in late October and November, but even these it's best to finish by mid-October.

It's also time to start winterizing your growing area. If you have plants in a heated greenhouse or growing area, do a test on your heating system to make sure it's working. There's still plenty of time to get it fixed before the colder weather of November strikes. The growing area should also be checked for areas with large air gaps, so the warmer air of the growing area doesn't escape too quickly at night. Of course, this can be difficult this time of year, since some of our hottest weather comes in October, not long before those night-time temperatures plummet.

Do a general clean-up of your growing area. Clean the plants of old spikes and bracts that could hold too much moisture against the plant during the colder winter months. Try to remove most of the organic debris from the floor – this just becomes a slip hazard as evaporation of water on the floor reduces during shorter days. If it's possible, a little extra space between plants during the winter allows for quicker drying between watering.

There is also a good selection of fall blooming orchids, so staking these now so they'll perform at their best is a good idea. Some of those just developing spikes now, such as *Laelia anceps*, might even be blooming for our January show. I know that's planning a long time in advance, but sometimes it's the right thing to do.

Speaking of planning in advance and our January show, we still need someone to step up to be show chair, or a couple people to be co-chairs. There will be lots of members around to help, so the show chair's job is largely just making sure someone is responsible for each job that needs to be done. For someone with good organizational skills, it should be fairly straightforward.

If the show chair is too big a job, consider being a member of the POS board next year. The board members tried to provide a snapshot of what they do during the August meeting skill session, and a couple people have shown interest in joining the board. While some positions like treasure and membership require specific skills, other positions, like director at large (or President) really only require members to discuss and vote on issues at board meetings. We usually have fun seeing each other at the board meetings, which are all virtual so they won't take too much time. If you might be interested, let any member of the nominating committee know, or talk to Chaunie since she's the head of the committee.

Remember, 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.

Happy growing,
Ken

Top: *Vanda Santa Barbara Fizz*, Ron Norris
Middle: *Disa uniflora*, Anna Chai
Bottom: *Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata* 'Suruga Fukurin', Mary Bui-Pham

MEMBER NEWS

Show & Tell

As with last month, if you are not attending the meeting in person, please send up to 3 photos to Mark Khoo mklkhoo@gmail.com and be prepared to talk about your plants when your photos are shown.

September Opportunity Table - It's back to pre-pandemic

Everyone present at the SMGC can buy tickets for \$1 each. If you are attending by Zoom and want to participate you will want to have a friend at the meeting buy tickets for you and deliver your plants to you.
This month we will have plants from Orchids Limited.

September Skill Session - Which orchids have to come inside for the winter?

Ken Jacobsen will talk about which of your orchids can remain outdoors year round (here in the Bay Area) and which ones will do better (as in blooming for you or as in continuing to live) if you bring them in for the winter. Please email Ken ahead of the meeting if you have some specific orchids you would like him to address during the talk. I will point out that I (Chaunie) leave quite a few Cattleyas outdoors year round. And Cattleya intermedia will not bloom as it could with that type of treatment!

Would you like to serve on the Peninsula OS Board?

Chaunie, Kathy Barrett and Neal Winslow are heading up the nominating committee for the 2022 Board. If you are interested in serving in some capacity please let Chaunie (chaunie.langland@earthlink.net) know. You do not need to be an orchid expert or a long time member to serve on the board. In fact, here is the information you need - I found this on a FaceBook post: You are good enough. Actually you're probably overqualified but let's start the day off humble.



Left: Catasetum Donna Wise x Catasetum denticulate, Chaunie Langland
Right: Oncidium Diane Feinstein 'San Francisco' HCC/AOS, Janusz Warszawski

Happy birthday!

September Birthdays

Mary Gerritsen
Amy Jacobsen
Mary Jensen
Marilyn Krieger
Dennis Olivas
Daniel Shea
Al Testa



2021 Board of Directors

President - Ken Jacobsen
Past President - Carol Zoltowski
Vice President - Chaunie Langland
Recording Secretary - Isis Trenchard
Correspondence Secretary - Helena Wee
Treasurer - Janusz Warszawski
Director of Membership - Olga Ostrovsky
Director of Way and Means - Mark Khoo
Director at Large - Mariko Nagashima
Director at Large - Mary Bui-Pham
Director at Large - Sue Rose
Newsletter Editors - Isis Trenchard and
Chaunie Langland

penorchidsoc@yahoo.com

MEMBER NEWS

Remembering Jean Lee

submitted by Chaunie Langland including text lifted from Jeff Harris (with permission)

Jean Lee passed away on August 1 this year after a short illness. Jean was president of San Francisco Orchid Society nine of the years between 1993 and 2012. She served on their board in other positions as well and was a driving force behind POE and Orchids in the Park.

Jean was also a member of Peninsula OS. People who work hard for an orchid society like to belong to other orchid societies where they can just enjoy their time at meetings and shows without major responsibilities. We would occasionally see her at a meeting and she usually visited our January show.

She worked at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) as a biologist on an amazingly wide variety of projects. Jean was an avid photographer, artist, collector of gems and minerals, Japanese wood blocks and bronze sculptures of animals. Jean also found time to volunteer with the Garden Club and Auxiliary as well as at the Conservatory of Flowers, where she found herself at the time of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.

Jean's leadership, friendship, knowledge and kindness will be missed by many, many people.

Are YOU the 2022 Show Chairperson?

What does the show chair do? Most of the job is done long before the show. The show chair leads the show committee and keeps track of the schedule. In addition to the show chair, the show committee consists of four members who are responsible for advertising, vendors, judging, scheduling speakers, recruiting the remaining show chairs, selecting a show theme and special prizes, and organizing set-up. (Those four people are already in place.) The budget is planned with the help of the Peninsula OS board members. The show chair doesn't need to be an expert orchid grower. The show chair should be reasonably good at organization and at communicating with people. Past show chairs have not been perfect and you don't need to be either.

As this is written the dates for our January show have been set, 28th, 29th and 30th and the Community Activities Building in Redwood City has been reserved. Vendors have already been invited. Our application to the AOS for judging has been submitted. Soon it will be time for the show committee to start planning the show. Are YOU willing to put in some time to make this another great show? Please let Ken Jacobsen (kenneth.p.jacobsen@gmail.com) or Chaunie Langland (chaunie.langland@earthlink.net) know if you are willing to volunteer for this position!

Epidendrum tuxtense, Mary Gerritsen



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 1 - Santa Clara Valley OS annual auction, seller check-in 6:30 - 7:00 PM, Auction begins at 7:30 PM, Amercian Legion Willow Glen Post, 1504 Minnesota Ave, San Jose.

Sunday, September 5 - AOS judging California Sierra Nevada Judging Center will offer judging at Dueling Dogs Brewing Co. in Lincoln at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, September 18 - AOS judging Pacific Central Judging Center will offer judging at Filoli Historic House, 86 Canada Rd., Woodside. Plant entry 9:00 AM, judging 9:30 AM. Email Chaunie on Friday, September 17, for details on gaining entry to the judging area. No charge to enter Filoli for judging.

Friday, September 24 - Peninsula Orchid Society regular meeting. Jason Fischer will give a presentation on *Vanda* (aka *Neofinetia*) *falcata*, the fragrant Japanese Wind Orchid. Special meeting start time of 6:30 PM as Jason will join us from Minnesota. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Opportunity table from Orchids Limited.