

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25



**Paphiopedilum Hsinying Wolf,
grown by Dan Williamson**

"ORCHIDS OF THE RIO NEGRO"

join Mary for a virtual orchid sightseeing trip on the flooded waters of the Rio Negro, a blackwater tributary of the Amazon.

MEMBER NEWS

Orchid Talk:

Mary Gerritsen, Ph.D. is an independent biotechnology consultant who has been growing orchids (mostly species) on and off for more than 30 years, and since relocating to the San Francisco Bay area in 1997 started to a collection of small cool growing miniature species such as Masdevallias, Porroglossums, Lepanthes and other assorted tiny gems. She also has a second intermediate greenhouse, filled with larger species such as Angraecoids, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Laelias, Phalaenopsis and Bulbophyllums. She loves to see orchids growing in situ, and has made it her mission over the last few years to see as many as possible, with trips to see and photograph orchids (and other flora as well) in Canada, many parts of the USA and Mexico, and countries in Central America (Costa Rica, Panama), South America (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela), South East Asia (Borneo, southern and southwestern China, Sulawesi, northern Thailand, Papua New Guinea), western Australia, Europe (Crete, Cyprus, Germany, Mallorca, Rhodes and Sicily) as well as South Africa and Madagascar.

She is the co-author of several botanical books: Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World; Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives; A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species; A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and their Culture; and the American Orchid Society Guide to Orchid and their Culture, with fellow San Francisco Orchid Society Member and well known photographer, Ron Parsons.

Mary frequently lectures to orchid societies in the San Francisco Bay area, and on occasion, nearby Southern California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and sometimes even further afield (Missouri, Kansas, Canada). She is on the board of directors of the Orchid Digest, the chief operating officer and treasurer of the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and is also a member of the American Orchid Society, the San Francisco Orchid Society, the Peninsula Orchid Society and the Pleurothallid Alliance.

This month, join Mary for "**Orchids of the Rio Negro**", a virtual orchid sightseeing trip on the flooded waters of the Rio Negro, a blackwater tributary of the Amazon. This riverboat tour makes twice daily excursions, once in the morning and in the evening, into the flooded forests, visiting different areas as the boat cruises more or less upstream. During the day the boat cruises further upstream and we can also enjoy sightseeing, bird spotting, as well as sighting the occasional iguana, pink dolphin, and sloth. Expect lots of different orchid species, bromeliads, flowering trees, and other exotic plants.



The Otter, our riverboat accommodation for the tour



Floating up to the orchids on the Rio Negro

Birthdays:

Wishing a very happy birthday this month to Svetlana Chebatar, Zachary Coney, Susan Hamilton, Edmon Hon, Viktoriia Kolotovska, David Kurzrock, Leo Kusber, Marianne Mollenauer, Mike O'Meara, Alisha Westerfeld, and Nathalie Yanze.



Show and Tell:

If you plan to attend via Zoom and want to share pictures of your orchids at the meeting, please send photos to Dan Williamson (dwillmsn-home@yahoo.com) and be prepared to share. You may also prepare a slide presentation or stage a display, photograph it and talk about your various plants.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAN WILLIAMSON

As we move into late summer, the hottest days are in front of us. Even as the sun moves south in the sky, the days get hotter. Orchids, especially those outside, can tolerate the heat better if they get plenty of water. I was reminded to put my outdoors Masdevallias in a tiny bit of water to help them weather even the warmest days. So far so good.

Since there's no way it will still be in bloom for the August meeting, here is a photo of my Brassocattleya Hippodamia (*Brassavola nodosa* x *Cattleya aclandiae*) registered in 1908! This one is a remake that I got from Marble Branch Farms in South Carolina. The fragrance at night is reminiscent of the *Brassavola nodosa* parent, but not as nice or as strong. It's been growing right under the LED lights and this is its first blooming for me. Since *Cattleya aclandiae* dislikes having its roots disturbed, when I went to repot it last time, I just put it in a bigger clay pot with more bark. It seems to have worked. The plant has lots of roots.

Happy growing!



Brassocattleya Hippodamia, grown by Dan Williamson

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 25 - Peninsula Orchid Society

At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403, starting at 7 pm. Doors and Zoom open at 6:30 pm. Our speaker will be Mary Gerritsen, who will be presenting "Orchids of the Rio Negro". She will also provide our opportunity table plants.

September 2-3 - New Earth Orchid Sale

From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at NEO's greenhouse. See details and address in the poster one page below.

November 10-11 - Fall Orchid Market

Hosted by the Carmel Orchid Society, the Fall Orchid Market takes place at Breezeway-Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel CA, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM both days. Admission is free! For more information, visit: <http://www.carmelorchidsociety.org/events/>



Cattleya milleri 'Old Glory',
grown by Chaunie Langland

2023 Board of Directors

President - Dan Williamson

Vice President - Leena Wang

Recording Secretary - Dan Williamson

Treasurer - Steve Proschan

Director of Membership - Olga Ostrovsky

Director of Ways and Means - Mark Khoo

Director at Large - Viktoria Kolotovska

Director at Large - Mary Bui-Pham

Director at Large - Mitch Schneider

Newsletter Editor - Leena Wang

Do you have something you would like to include in the next newsletter?

Send an email to penorchidsoc@yahoo.com!

Meeting Agenda

6:30 PM - Zoom/SMGC opens

7:00 PM - Mary Gerritsen

8:00 PM - Announcements

8:10 PM - Show and Tell

No skill session this meeting!

Opportunity Table - Mary Gerritsen

Reminder

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



New Earth Orchid's



End of Summer Sale and Open House



**Saturday and Sunday
September 2-3 9am-3pm**

At the New earth orchid's green-
house 12511 San Mateo Rd (i.e.
Hwy 92), Half Moon Bay Ca, 94019
(Pastorino Farms)

Plases Car Pool and Call when you
arrive to be let to back area Mitch's
Cell 216-269-1597



If you have not renewed your membership for 2023, please send in this form to join or online at our website: <http://penorchidsoc.org/membership.html>

2023 Peninsula Orchid Society
Membership Application or Renewal

Write checks payable to: POS

Mail to: Steve Proschan – POS Membership
326 El Paseo, Millbrae CA 94030

(Membership chairperson for 2023 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 Household membership additional \$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 re-new before the end of January each year.

Membership Chair's area

Date paid _____ Check No. and amount _____
Receipt No. _____ Cash Amount _____

JULY SHOW AND TELL

Special thank you to Viktoriia for taking photos of the show-and-tell plants, and of Orchids in the Park!



Clockwise from top left: *Vanda falcata* var. *shutennou* (Chaunie Langland), *Vanda falcata* 'Shinkirou' (Anthony Rivera), Stanhopea Quirky Queen LDO 4 (Leo Kusber), and *Cattleya purpurata* (Chaunie Langland)



Clockwise from top left: *Cleisostoma birmanicum* (Anthony Rivera), *Miltonia Stellina* 'Lion's Den 1' (Leo Kusber), *Rhynchochilus* Jimminey Cricket 'Dragon Verde' HCC/AOS (Chauie Langland), and *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* (Anna Chai)



Clockwise from top left: Peloric Phalaenopsis hybrid (Viktoriia Kolotovska), *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* (Anna Chai), *Disa uniflora* (Leena Wang), and *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae* (Anna Chai)

ORCHIDS IN THE PARK





ORCHIDS IN CALIFORNIA

LEENA WANG

Last month, I shared pictures of the native orchids I found in Montana during my trip to Glacier National Park. This month, I have some more pictures of wild orchids, but all from California!

In late July to early August, *Platanthera elegans* can be found blooming at Edgewood Park in Redwood City. *P. elegans* is in the Piperia section, so it tends to grow in shady but drier chaparral areas. When I leaned in closely, I could detect a lightly spiced fragrance. This species grows all along the California coast - there is also a rare subspecies of *elegans* that occurs only at Point Reyes Seashore.

I was also in the Sierra Nevada range this past week and went on several hikes that crossed riparian areas. Usually, you can spot blooming *Platanthera* in seeps and on the edges of streams or meadows. One highlight from this trip was *Platanthera sparsiflora*, which has beautiful, spread flowers.

Out of all the *Platanthera* species I've seen, *P. elegans* has had the largest inflorescence and was the easiest to spot. Otherwise, the other species tend to have much smaller flowers and could be easily missed!



Platanthera elegans ssp. *elegans*



Platanthera sparsiflora