

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26



**Cattleya Chocolate Drop 'Kodama',
grown by Bill Weaver**

“CYCNOCHES, MORMODES, CATASETUMS RECENT TRENDS”

A review of the amazing world of Catasetinae. A lively and entertaining presentation, amazing pictures and the making of Fredclarkeara After Dark 'the blackest orchid seen.' Also includes a thorough review of plant culture.

MEMBER NEWS

Orchid Talk:

Our speaker this month is Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, presenting “Cycnoches, Mormodes, Catasetums recent trends”.

Cycnoches, Mormodes, and Catasetums are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions. Commercially, Catasetum, Cycnoches (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and Mormodes (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC’s and thirty AM’s from the AOS judges! Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Birthdays:

Wishing a very happy birthday this month to Terry Boomer, Diana Hallesy, Goldie Klein, Linda Locatelli, and Mariko Nagashima!



Show and Tell:

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

If you would like your pictures to be in the next month’s newsletter, send them to Leena Wang (penorchidsoc@yahoo.com). Include the name and clear pictures. Please send photos by the end of the second Friday of the month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAN WILLIAMSON

If December is for looking back on the year that was, January is for looking forward to the new year.

Some of the things that I am looking forward to are:

- The Pacific Orchid Exposition in February. It is always fun to go and see the amazing plants in the show area and browse the vendor area for new special plants that I absolutely must have.
- Our Show and Sale in April – Details to come as they are arranged.
- Repotting several Masdevallias that have completely outgrown their pots. I have 4 masdevallias that are overflowing their pots that each could be divided into 2 or even 4 parts. So I need to learn how to repot them and then figure out how to keep them alive.
- Finding native orchids on Mount Tamalpais. It's always fun to find orchids in the wild.
- Learning more about orchids that I don't, can't or haven't yet tried to grow.

I hope that your new year is filled with beautiful flowers, enchanting fragrances, luck and joy!

71st Annual San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

Timeless Orchids

February 16-17
10am - 5pm

February 18
10am - 4pm

Preview Night:
Feb 15 6-9 pm
(Must be 21 or older)

County Fair Building
1199 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA

Discounted advance tickets available
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26 - POS Meeting

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will speak to us about recent trends in Cycnoches, Mormodes, and Catasetums. Fred will also be providing our opportunity table plants. **Pre-orders from Fred will be distributed at the meeting!**

Doors open at 6:30 PM (along with Zoom) and the meeting begins at 7:00 PM. At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo 94403.

February 1 to 4 - 2024 GCCS Annual Auction

Online auction hosted by the Gold Coast Cymbidium society! More information at: <https://goldcoastcymbidiumsociety.org/auction.html>

February 16-18 - Pacific Orchid Exposition

"Timeless Orchids", at the County Fair Building, 1199 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA. More information on the SFOS website: <https://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/>

March 23-24 - Sonoma County Orchid Society Show and Sale

At 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. Talks throughout the day and hundreds of orchids available to buy from orchid growers & SCOS members. Admission: \$10 Adults, 12 & under free. For more information, visit: www.sonomaorchids.com

2024 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 - Susan Gutierrez

Director at Large - Joseph Kautz

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 - Fred Clarke

8:00 PM - Announcements

8:10 PM - Show and Tell

Opportunity Table - Sunset Valley Orchids

Reminder

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

2024 Cymbidium Collector's Online Auction

**Feb 1 –
Feb 3, 2024**



Presented by:
*Gold Coast
Cymbidium Society*

Bidding opens: Thurs
Feb 1, 5:00 pm
Bidding closes: Sat
Feb 3, 1:05 to 3:45 pm

Plant pick-up: Sun Feb 4, 12:15 – 2:30 pm at 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
NO Shipping! Pick-up only!

Go to: www.GoldCoastCymbidiumSociety.org/auction

for Auction Catalog, bidder information, and link to online auction website.



Auction features all plants shown & 100+ more:

- Cymbidiums and companion orchids
- Plants in spike
- Species
- Pelorics and feathered
- Rarely available Show & Award winners!

Questions, email: auction.gccs@gmail.com

Sonoma County Orchid Society

Proudly Presents Our Annual Show & Sale

ENCHANTING ORCHIDS

2024

March 23-24

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

FREE PARKING

Admission \$10

Raffle & Door Prizes

Veteran's Bldg
1351 Maple Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA

DECEMBER SHOW AND TELL



Clockwise from top left: *Cymbidium tracyanum* (Viktorii Kolotovska), *Paphiopedilum Pinocchio* var. *alba* (Catherine Obillo), *Brassolaeliocattleya Sun Spots 'Sunspots' x Brassocattleya Richard Mueller '4N'* (Dan Williamson), *Cattleya hoehnei* (Tom Waugh)



Clockwise from top left: *Masdevallia* Harlequin 'Pacifica' (Anna Chai), *Lysudamuloa* Red Jewel 'Hilo Girl' (Catherine Obillo), *Cymbidium* Isle 'Flamingo' (Catherine Obillo), *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* (Anna Chai)



Clockwise from top left: *Cymbidium ensifolium* (Amy and Ken Jacobsen), *Laelia albida* 'Winston' AM/AOS (Amy and Ken Jacobsen), *Comparettia speciosa* (Catherine Obillo), and *Cleisocentron merrillianum* (Catherine Obillo).