

# THE SHEATH

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY



OCTOBER 25

**“Holocoglossums: The Next Great  
Thing in Vandas”, by Tim Culbertson**

# MEMBER NEWS

## **Birthdays:**

Wishing a very happy birthday this month to Sandra Charles, Mary Gerritsen, Amy Jacobsen, Mary Jensen, Dennis Olivas, Walt Roseberry, and Yang Zhao!

## **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 our email (penorchidsoc@yahoo.com) by the end of the second Friday of the month. Include the name and clear pictures.

## **Orchid Buds Assistant Program (Pacific Central Judging Center):**

Pacific Central Judging Center (PCJC or Pac Central) is the local American Orchid Society (AOS) judging center. We have two regular monthly judgings as well as judging at local orchid shows and occasional outreach judgings at orchid societies meetings.

If you are interested in orchids, and would like to see and learn more about them, we invite you to join our judging team as a volunteer assistant. Your duties would be to assist the AOS judges with plant entry at the judging site, help move the plants to the judging tables, assist the photographer in photographing award winning flowers, help keep track of paperwork, and various other tasks as they come up. Only a small amount of training is needed. You will get a chance to see special orchids and get some ideas on how to spot them when shopping for your collection.

There are no specific time or attendance requirements for this volunteer commitment, only the desire to come to judging sessions, help out the judges, and learn about orchids.

Contact Chaunie Langland at (510) 364-2274 or [paccentraljc@gmail.com](mailto:paccentraljc@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer. Visit our website at [www.paccentraljc.org](http://www.paccentraljc.org) and see what we do.

Cover: *Phragmipedium besseae* var. *guarumales*, grown by Helena Wee

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAN WILLIAMSON

I want to thank everyone that came out and helped at the fall Orchid Show and Sale at the Garden Center.

Ron Parsons, Onor Cheung and her 2 kids, Clarice Hampel, Susan Gutierrez, Anna Chai, Helena Wee, Catherine Obillo, Bill Weaver, Alex Cain, Mariko Nagashima, Leena Wang, Dennis Olivas, Mark Khoo, Steve Proschan, Janusz Warszawski, Tom Waugh, Chaunie Langland, Margaret Boomer, Olga Ostrovsky, Natalie Mutz, Paul Asente and probably more that I missed.

We could not hold the show without the support of all of our volunteers. I hope that volunteers had fun talking orchids with visitors, vendors and other volunteers. As Dennis said, attendance was a little discouraging, though it was encouraging to see people from Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, Santa Cruz and all over the Bay Area attending.

I hope that everyone got to browse the member sales table and the vendor tables and find some sought after or intriguing plants. I know that I bought more than I intended to, but I am thrilled with the plants that I got.



Pierre's table at the show!

# ORCHID TALK

Although I teach middle school kids for a living, one of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers nearly 3000. While I love finding old, rare stepping stones in Paph breeding, I also do a little hybridizing of my own, and growing up my own babies is a blast. I am an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I've worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, I really like plants.

For your meeting, I'll be sharing a presentation on Holcoglossums: The Next Great Thing in Vandas. Holcoglossums are a relatively new genus to Vandaceous breeding, and they are already making a big splash: they are miniature, adaptable, and make great compact plants for windowsills or

outdoors in Southern California. By combining Holcoglossums with basically every Vandaceous genus under the sun, we have been able to come up with some spectacular new combinations; in many cases, these are so new that they haven't even been named yet! This is truly cutting-edge breeding, and you will be amongst the first to see and appreciate these new directions in miniature Vandaceous plants for outdoor or windowsill growing here. By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of the range of plant habits, floral forms, and colors of Holcoglossum species and hybrids, as well as an appreciation of their lovely flowers and ease-of-growth.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **October 22 - Marin Orchid Society Annual Auction**

Join Marin Orchid Society on Tuesday, October 22 at 6 pm at Kol Shofar, in Tiburon for their annual orchid auction.  
<https://marinorchidsociety.com/>

## **October 25 - Peninsula Orchid Society Meeting**

Doors and Zoom open at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7 pm, at the San Mateo Garden Center. Our speaker this month is Tim Culbertson, who will also be providing the raffle table.

## **October 25 - 27 Gold Country Orchids & Paph Paradise Fall Open House**

See flyer attached on next page.

## **November 12 - Peninsula Orchid Society Board Meeting**

Board meetings generally occur on the second Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in attending, please email Dan at [dwillmsn-home@yahoo.com](mailto:dwillmsn-home@yahoo.com)

## **2024 Board of Directors**

President - Dan Williamson

Vice President - Leena Wang

Recording Secretary - Dan Williamson

Treasurer - Steve Proshan

Director of Membership - Olga Ostrovsky

Director of Ways and Means - Mark Khoo

Director at Large - Susan Gutierrez

Director at Large - Joseph Kautz

Director at Large - Ken Jacobsen

Newsletter Editor - Leena Wang

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

Send an email to [penorchidsoc@yahoo.com](mailto:penorchidsoc@yahoo.com)!

## **Meeting Agenda**

6:30 PM - Zoom/SMGC doors open

7:00 PM - Tim Culbertson

8:00 PM - Announcements

8:10 PM - Show and Tell

Opportunity Table - Tim Culbertson

## **Reminder**

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



## **GOLD COUNTRY ORCHIDS & PAPH PARADISE FALL OPEN HOUSE**

### **GOLD COUNTRY:**

**Bring this flyer for a free plant with any \$25  
purchase, or 25% off any purchase over \$150**

**OCTOBER 25 9:00-4:00  
OCTOBER 26 10:00-3:00  
OCTOBER 27 10:00-3:00**

**390 BIG BEN ROAD  
LINCOLN, CA**

**MAKE A DAY OF IT!  
VISIT OUR LOCAL WINERIES, RESTAURANTS  
AND MICROBREWERIES  
WE RECOMMEND:  
DUELING DOGS BREWERY  
CIOTTI WINERY**

**PAPH PARADISE: NEW RELEASE SALE  
Plenty of new species and hybrids!  
Our inventory and selection continues to expand!**

# OCTOBER SHOW



Top: *Oncidium* Lake Sammish (Pierre Pujol)  
Bottom: *Rynholaeliocattleya* Dick Smith 'Paradise' (Catherine Obillo)



Clockwise from top left: *Cattleya* Pink Leopard 'Bay' (Pierre Pujol), *Paphiopedilum* Macabre Gem (Mariko Nagashima), *Miltassia* Shelob 'Tolkien' (Roey Shaviv) and *Laelia pumila* 'Dark Star' (Anthony Rivera)