

THE SHEATH

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY



DECEMBER 20

“The Genus *Cymbidium*”,
Ron Parsons

MEMBER NEWS

December Meeting:

Our upcoming meeting will be a joint meeting with Gold Coast Cymbidium Society, with a talk by Ron Parsons on "The Genus Cymbidium".

Instead of an auction/opportunity table at this meeting, GCCS and POS have decided to hold a backbulb exchange. If you would like, please bring a sprouted backbulb or division for the exchange. We will draw tickets to let people select a plant from the exchange table.

Birthdays:

Wishing a very happy birthday this month to Kathy Barrett, Clint Evans, Hai Merfalen, Patricia Papa, Edith Rodriguez, Dave Tatro, Janusz Warszawski, Corinna Wan, Tom Waugh, Miva Wong, and Audrey Young-Tarter!



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.

2025 Proposed Slate:

President: Dennis Olivas

Vice President: Dan Williamson

Recording Secretary: Leena Wang

Correspondence Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Steve Proschan

Director of Membership: Olga Ostrovsky

Director of Ways and Means: Mark Khoo

Director at Large: Susan Gutierrez

Director at Large: Open

Director at Large: Open

Cover: *Laelia pumila* 'Dark Star, grown by Anthony Rivera

“THE GENUS CYMBIDIUM”

A presentation of the species of one of the most popular orchid genera in cultivation, this is a close-up look at those plants that initiated a plethora of the popular hybrids. There are more than 80 currently accepted species, and a number of natural hybrids in the genus. Cymbidium grow as epiphytes, lithophytes or terrestrially in nature, from sea level to relatively high elevations. many of the most commonly available (and some rarities) are featured.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for 50 years, and has been interested in the species for most of that time. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, and does so as often as possible. Ron has more than 108,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has given more than 500 talks on various botanical topics, and has over 6500 published photos.

Ron has co-authored four books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. Their third book, a two-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by Redfern Natural History Productions in January 2014. In 2019 *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* was released, and is on its third printing.



They have recently completed a fifth book, a much-revised second edition of *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species*. It is now in four volumes with 3100 photos (1800 of those are new), including those of more than 500 species not in the first edition. The set was released in early October, 2021.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

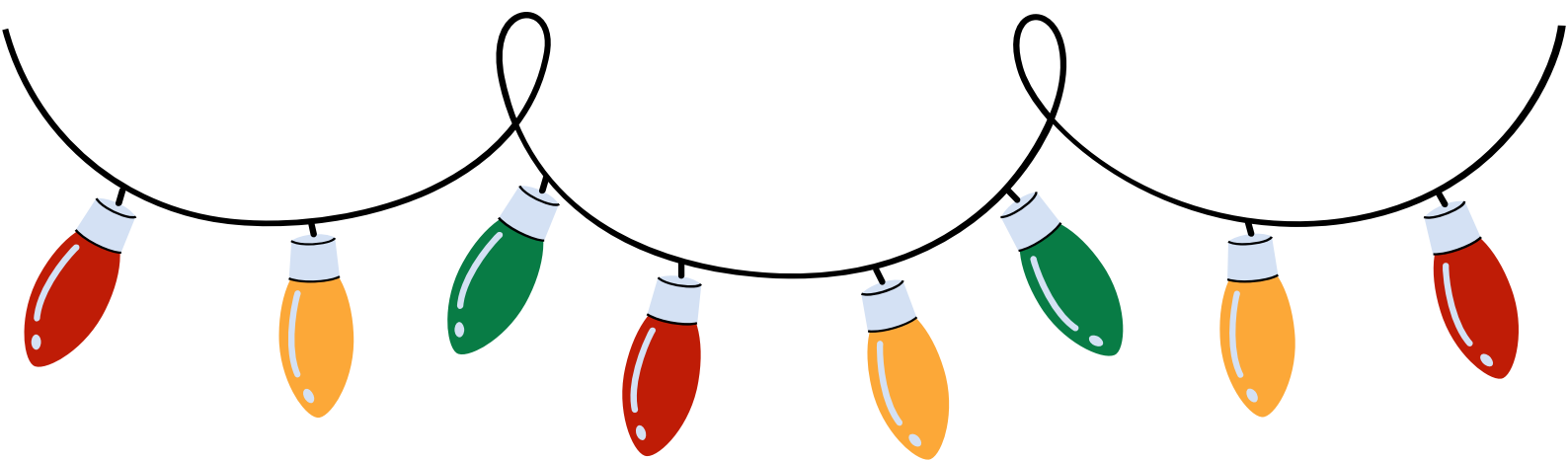
DAN WILLIAMSON

As the year and my term draws to a close, I want to reflect on the past year. I very much appreciate everyone who stepped up with support for the society this year, especially my fellow board members and all of the volunteers at the shows.

The highlights from the year for me are the shows. I love showing off my plants, seeing all of your amazing plants, and hanging out with my fellow orchid enthusiasts. The talk on the orchid-fungus relationship in native orchids was fascinating. And Ken's talk on growing specimen plants was inspirational. All of the talks on specific genus of plants encouraged me to try new plants that I had not been aware of. I'm looking forward to another great year of programs.

Looking ahead, this month we are having our annual joint meeting with the Gold Coast Cymbidium Society and we are planning on having another spring show with them in April. We are also thinking of making changes to the meetings, and the website to make them more helpful to members. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

Happy Holidays and Happy Growing!



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20 - Peninsula Orchid Society Meeting

This meeting will be a joint meeting with GCCS. Ron Parsons will be presenting hist talk, "The Genus Cymbidium". There will be a back bulb exchange instead of an opportunity table! Doors and Zoom open at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7 pm, at the San Mateo Garden Center.

January 18 - Live Cymbidium Auction

Plant preview & buyer registrations begins at 1 PM, and the auction begins 1:30 PM. Top quality plants, past show winners, species, splash, feathered & peloric petals, and other cool-growing companion plants – ALL CMV & ORS Virus tested NEGATIVE ! At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Wy, San Mateo, 94403. For more information, visit: <http://www.GoldCoastCymbidiumSociety.org/auction.html>

January 24 - Peninsula Orchid Society

Doors and Zoom open at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7 pm, at the San Mateo Garden Center.

February 29 to March 2 - Orchids in the Clouds

(72nd Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale) Tickets are live now! Buy at: <https://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/events.html>

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

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!

Meeting Agenda

6:30 PM - Zoom/SMGC doors open

7:00 PM - Ron Parsons

8:00 PM - Announcements

8:10 PM - Show and Tell

Backbulb Exchange!

Reminder

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