

# THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY



FRIDAY, JUNE 25

## *A BARKERIA ODYSSEY*

ROBERT MARSH, PH.D.

Robert Marsh has over 60 years of experience with growing orchids. He was enticed to start growing orchids in his early teen years by articles in popular magazines and the book "Home Orchid Growing" by Rebecca Northern. With encouragement and advice from Craig Foster of Bluegrass Orchids, which was located near Lexington, Kentucky, and orchid enthusiast Katherine Stewart in his hometown, Winchester, Kentucky, Robert's multigeneric collection quickly grew to fill a greenhouse that he and his grandfather built. For a time, the pursuit of a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Vanderbilt University, followed by several years of post-doctoral research in Germany and at Princeton University, put the orchids on a back burner. But, in the early 1980s, after joining the faculty of the University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Marsh -- at the naive urging of one of his doctoral students -- returned to the avid pursuit of orchids: first of *Oncidium* species and then *Barkerias*, after being introduced to them by Jim Balch of North Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1982 he joined the Greater North Texas Orchid Society. Three years later Dr. Marsh's *Oncidium* (now *Gomesa*) *forbesii* 'Lorenz Marsh' AM/AOS was awarded the AOS Botanical Trophy, called the Nax Trophy at the time. He has written articles and registered a number of *Oncidium* and *Barkeria* hybrids, several of which have received AOS quality awards. Following his retirement as Associate Head of the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at UT Dallas, he taught biochemistry as a part-time Senior Lecturer until fall 2020. He continues breeding *Barkerias* and working to popularize them among orchid hobbyists and establish them as mass-market pot plants. He and Dennis Szeszko, who wrote the recent authoritative work on the orchids of Mexico State, *La Orquideoflora Mexiquense*, have founded MAS Orchids LLC, which is working with Floricultura in Holland to commercialize *Barkerias*.

6:30pm SMGC doors open - masks required for everyone  
 6:45pm Zoom sign in opens  
 7:00pm Announcements  
 7:15pm *Barkerias*  
 8:15pm Skill Session  
 8:30pm Show and Tell  
 8:50pm Plant giveaway  
 Schedule not set in stone  
 Check your email for the Zoom link.

### *REMINDER*

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

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KEN JACOBSEN



Half the year is already gone, but the good news is that the pandemic situation is so drastically improved from five to six months ago. The San Mateo Garden Center has just told us that they're all set for meetings to occur again in person, and as of next Tuesday occupancy restrictions will be lifted. We can have as many as 115 members in the main room for the regular meeting, and 38 in the Rose room for our skill session. It would be awesome if we test those limits, but we'll be trying to run a Zoom session at the same time, just in case there are some of you who won't be able to make it in person.

We will probably keep the outside doors open, unless it's too cold, or there's too much noise from the baseball field. We will also ask that people wear masks, which will allow us to socialize in much the way we're used to from the past. Wearing masks will reduce our ability to provide liquids and snacks, and we'll have to ask that you consume them outside if there are any available.

In less than two months, we'll hold our one-day show at the Garden Center. Since it's all packed into one day, it will be a whirlwind of activity, but having a real live show where we can see (and sell, and buy) plants in person will be great. Admission will be free, with the cost of the facilities being covered by the club's share of the member sales plants. Even more reason to sell and buy plants at the show, as if seeing summer blooming orchids instead of the typical winter/spring bloomers at our regular show isn't enough.

As I've mentioned before, we won't have ribbon judging as we do for the winter show, but rather have a viewer's choice award to the four plants that receive the most votes. There will be AOS judging starting at 10:00 AM, that hopefully will wrap up by noon, so those of us involved with the AOS will have the rest of the day to interact with everyone else at the show. Since a one-day summer show is a first for us, it will be important to learn what works, what doesn't work, and what we could add. If all of you think it was a good idea after the show, we'll likely do something similar in future years, perhaps changing up the month to vary the blooming plants.

The first batch of bark that our Ways and Means director Mark Khoo procured is long gone. The good news he managed to procure another 20 bags of Kiwi bark. As of this writing, some of those bags remain, so contact Mark if you need more bark to finish your annual repotting. They're going fast, but if there are any left, he'll bring some to the Garden Center for our June meeting. Mark has been considering what other supplies would be useful to club members, so if you have ideas, let him know. Right now, pots and hangers are still in very short supply due to shipping problems, so let him know the other items you might need.

As always, this is your club. 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: *Dendrobium* no name, Ken Jacobsen

Middle: *Promenaea silvana*, Chaunie Langland

Bottom: *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, Zach Coney



# MEMBER NEWS

## SAFETY RULES FOR IN PERSON JUNE MEETING

Everyone attending the meeting at the SMGC (vaccinated or not) will be required to wear a mask while indoors. If you want to eat or drink something you will need to go outdoors to the patio or the parking lot. Please do your best to stay socially distanced, it can be hard to remember in social settings.

## RAFFLE WINNERS AT MAY MEETING

Congratulations to the plant raffle winners at our May meeting: Kathy Barrett, Ann Benninger, Ken Jacobsen, Mariko Nagashima, A'na Sa'tara, Tom Waugh, Yi Xiao and Audrey Young-Tartar. They got to choose from a nice selection from Andy's Orchids.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- July speaker: Bill Thoms will talk about general orchid culture.

## AUGUST 8TH SHOW AND SALE

Remember to start preparing plants that you want to offer at our member sales area. Plants need to be established (divide and pot up or mount now, not in August!) and free of pests and diseases

## SHOW AND TELL FOR JUNE - format change

If you will be attending the meeting via Zoom and have something for show and tell please send your photos to Mark Khoo at mklkhoo@gmail.com no later than June 24. Please send no more than three photos and be prepared to talk about your photos when they come up during show & tell.

## JUNE RAFFLE - IT'S COMPLICATED (so pay attention)

We will have some MAS Barkerias and some SVO Cattleya seedlings. Five plants will be part of the free drawing - members on Zoom will have their names put into a bag and any members at the SMGC can put their name in the free drawing bag. We will also be selling raffle tickets - \$1 each - for the remaining plants. You must be present at the SMGC to buy raffle tickets.

### Join the newsletter team!

We are currently producing the newsletter on Canva. We welcome members to join us by taking on production of a section of the newsletter. Let Isis or Chaunie know if you are interested!

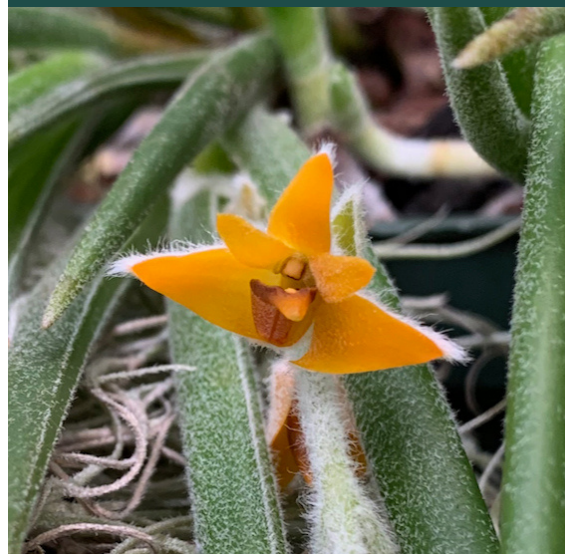
## Happy birthday

Ann Abramson  
Rene Biggs  
Ginger Creevy  
Mike Drilling  
Olga Ostrovsky  
Ron Parsons  
Paul Satara Bever  
Paul Simon  
Japheth Ko  
Lars Rosengreen

## 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

penorchidsoc@yahoo.com  
Newsletter editor this issue Chaunie Langland



*Myrcanthes pannea*, Chaunie Langland

# Places to Go, Things to Do, Sights to See

## June 19th AOS Judging

Bring your beautiful orchids for judging - no cost to enter Filoli to come to judging, no cost for plant entry, there is a cost if your orchid wins an award. If you would like to tour the Filoli grounds you need to purchase tickets. Please be aware that they can sell out early. We will be judging outdoors, either by the greenhouses or on a patio - check <http://www.pacentraljc.org> the evening of May 14 for directions or call Chaunie at 510-494-8850 on May 14. Masks and social distancing will be required.

## San Francisco OS Online Sale

going on NOW through June 23rd, pick up plants and also shop at the pick up site on June 27th at the Sheldance Nursery parking lot. <https://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/june-2021-member-sale.html>

## AUGUST 8TH SHOW AND SALE

Remember to start preparing plants that you want to offer at our member sales area. Plants need to be established (divide and pot up or mount now, not in August!) and free of pests and diseases. Member sales procedures will be available on our website and in the July issue of The Sheath.

Show and sale will open at 10:00 AM and close at 4:00 PM. AOS judging - you do not need to put your orchid in the show to request AOS judging.

Volunteers for set-up should arrive at 8:00 AM. Plant entry closes at 9:50 sharp.

No ribbon judging, but we will have the show visitors vote for best plant in show. The top four plants will each receive an AOS Centennial stemless wineglass.

## November 12 & 13 Carmel OS Sale

Carmel Orchid Society will hold a Fall Orchid, Succulent and Carnivorous Plant Sale, Friday and Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm, Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel, CA.



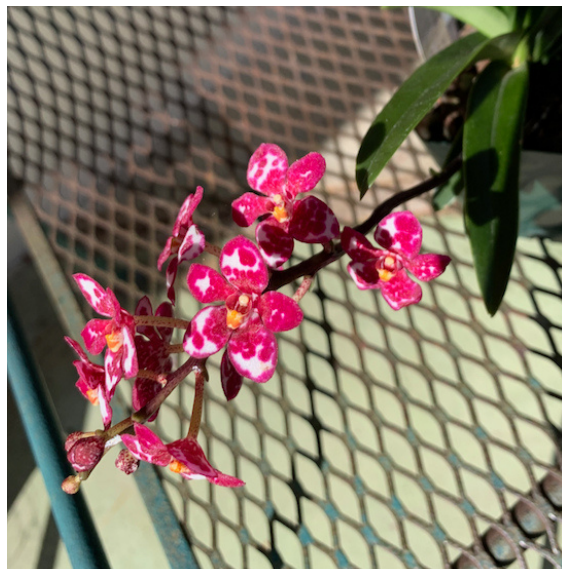
*Cattleya Pao de Asucar*, Ken Jacobsen



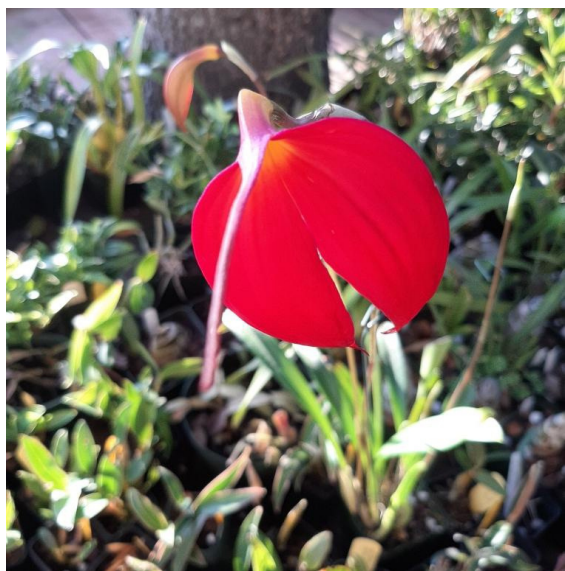
# May Show & Tell



*Masdevallia Shuttryana*, Anna Chai



*Sarcophilus Kulnura* Rage, Chaunie Langland



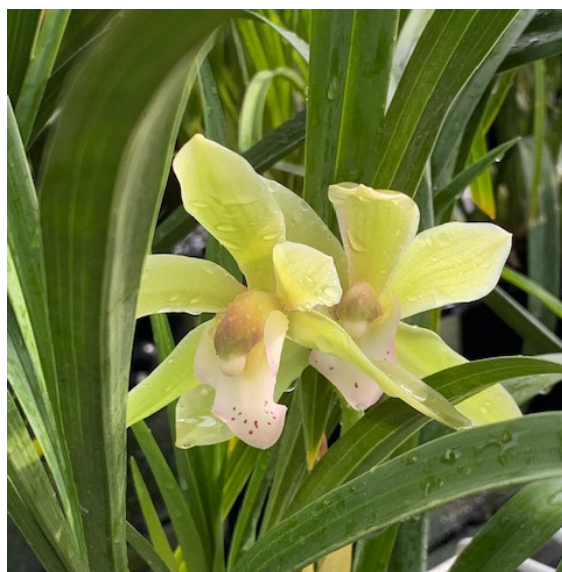
*Masdevallia coccinea*, Anna Chai



*Sophronitis bicolor*, Anna Chai



*Paphiopedilum* Prince Edward of York, Chaunie



*Cymbidium* (Eastern Venus x Niobe), Ken Jacobsen