



## San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter

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**June 2015** Volume 64 Number 6

**The mission** of the SFOS is to foster the culture and cultivation of orchids and to promote education of its members and the public about orchids. Our goals include: an exchange of information from exhibitions, publications, and the Internet, maintenance of a reference library, and participation in worldwide activities.

### June Speaker

**Sam Tsui**

*The Orchid Inn, Ltd.*

*The Wonderful World  
of  
Brachypetalums and their Culture*

## SFOS Meeting

**Tues. June 2, 2015**



**Tues. June 2, 2015**  
**AOS Judging: 7:00 PM**  
**Skills Session: 7:05 PM**  
**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

San Francisco County Fair Building,  
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and  
Lincoln Way, San Francisco. Plants  
submitted for American Orchid Society  
Judging must be entered between  
6:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

### **Speaker**

**Sam Tsui**

***The Wonderful World of  
Brachypetalums and their Culture***

### **Skill Session**

**Dexter Hodes**  
***How to Mount Your Orchids***

### **Plant Opportunity Table**

**Sam Tsui**  
**The Orchid Inn Ltd.**

**2014-2015 SFOS**

### **Officers/Contacts**

**President**  
**George McRae**  
[ELEGANS@aol.com](mailto:ELEGANS@aol.com)

## Sam Tsui

Sam was born in Hong Kong on November 23, 1952. He traveled to the United States at the age of 22. He attended Illinois State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in accounting. He has since completed his MBA. While still an undergraduate student, Sam was employed by Country Insurance and Financial Services based in Bloomington Normal, Illinois. He retired January, 2008 from Country Insurance and Financial Services as a Senior Software Developer in their Information Systems Division. Sam is now concentrating, full time, on his orchid growing business. Sam met Jeanie Ting while studying at the university. Jeanie is also from Hong Kong. They were married in May, 1983.

He began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types of orchids, he became a serious Paphiopedilum grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with Paphiopedilums and continues that work today. As he became more involved with Paphiopedilums, he started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. He grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. As the business grew, in 2004, he purchased six acres of property and built his first commercial 6,000 square feet greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

In the past 18 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world by traveling to shows, promoting sales, and lecturing. Sam currently fills orders from around the world and attends over 20 orchid shows/conferences a year. He also does approximately 25 Paphiopedilum programs/lectures to orchid conferences, societies and groups annually in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe. Over the past 18 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. He emphasizes Paphiopedilum species, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum and Multifloral hybrids. He only selects the best, most vigorous parent plants in his collection for breeding/hybridizing. He continues to improve his breeding stock by selecting plants or flasks from his fellow orchid growers that he believes are outstanding examples of their type.

As a result of Sam's breeding program, his orchids have been honored with approximately two hundred and forty-five awards (as of January 31, 2015) from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America and European Orchid Congress. His most prestigious awards include Thirteen First Class Certificates (FCC/AOS); three Cultural awards including a 93 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE/AOS); and seven breeder's Awards of Quality (AQ/AOS). All these awards are from American Orchid Society.

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**Raffle Tickets**

**Ellen Edelson**



## ***The Wonderful World of Brachypetalums and their Culture***



This group of Paphiopedilums are known for their full, rounded segments that are often densely spotted. Not only are the species distinctive, they have been used to make many beautiful hybrids. Sam Tsui will explore recent breeding trends as well as giving tips on how to grow Brachypetalums.

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[info@orchidsanfrancisco.org](mailto:info@orchidsanfrancisco.org)

A California Non Profit 501(c)3  
Corporation

SFOS NEWSLETTER

June 2015

## Dinner with the Speaker

Please join us in the parking lot in back of the SF  
County Fair Building at 5:30 PM sharp.

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## Minutes of the SFOS Board Meeting

### SFOS Board Meeting- May 11, 2015

Present: George McRae, Valerie Mountain, Steve Beckendorf, Carol Zoltowski, Chris Mende, Claire Zvanski, Dexter Hodes, Dennis Westler, Dave Hermeyer, Jean Lee, Florence Inserto, Jack Ryder

Excused: Tom Perlite  
The meeting started at 7:30.

#### I. Vice President's Report

A. Steve: The speaker for the June meeting will be: Sam Tsui on Paph hybrids. Plant Opportunity Table and Skill Session are TBD. Other upcoming speakers will be Bob Hamilton for July, Winn Winnmaw from Burma for August, and Guillermo Salazar from Florida in September. Steve is in the process of lining up speakers for the fall months.

#### II. Secretary's Report

A. Valerie noted that she will be out of town for the June Board meeting and will need someone to record the minutes.

#### III. Membership

A. Claire: There were no new members joining or renewals at the May monthly meeting, but there was one renewal by mail. She noted that most membership renewals have been completed.

#### IV. POE

A. Dennis reported that Frances is doing outreach to line up potential new sponsors, including Airbnb. Dennis is also trying to get a local Chinese sponsor, and Taiwan may sign on for a 5th year. Frances has found a possible Ft. Mason approved replacement for Piedemonte Catering. The POE committee is also looking into having multiple food suppliers for the show. The deposit for Ft. Mason is due and needs to be sent in soon to hold our dates. The contract for Tom Perlite for POE 2016 Production Manager was reviewed by the board. Carol made a motion to approve to approve the contract, and the motion was passed.

#### V. Treasurer

A. Carol: Checking: \$23,834.70, High Yield Savings: \$168,557.86, Market Rate Savings: \$1507.13. Total assets: \$193,899.69. The latest tally for POE 2015 shows a net profit of \$18,512.17. Carol has paid for the P.O. Box in West Portal for the next year. The box needs to be checked often for bills, checks and other pertinent mail. She has set up Data Safe storage for archives of financial records, only keeping the

### FEATURED ARTICLE

#### 2015 Membership Directory

The new membership directory is now online on the SFOS website. All members with an email address in our records should have received instructions for login and password. If you have forgotten your password, you can still use the directory. Just go to the SFOS website and follow the instructions for forgotten password.

If there are errors, please contact  
Florence Inserto -  
[floinsert@yahoo.com](mailto:floinsert@yahoo.com) or Claire  
Zvanski:  
(415) 341-  
3085 [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com).

#### 2015 Dues

(\$25 per year-Individual)  
(\$40 per household-2 or more- per  
year)  
Dues may be payable at any SFOS  
meeting,  
or go the Web  
site [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)  
and use Pay Pal or mail to

SFOS- Membership

PO Box 27145

SF, CA 94127-0145

- \$25/year or \$40/year (with Email Newsletter Option)
  - \$45/year individual (with USPS Mail Newsletter Option)
- Thank you!

### Welcome New Members

**Lydia Klenova  
Dean Varni  
Allyson Moulton  
Besgrow-New Zealand**

Please welcome our new members at your earliest opportunity.

### NOTICE TO BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE SFOS

Member Orchid Related Businesses in our Roster are out of date. All current SFOS members who wish to have their Orchid Related Businesses listed need to contact membership. See contact information above or at end of this newsletter.

### Refreshments

#### **M - R**

SFOS members are encouraged to help out with refreshments, setup and cleanup at Monthly Meetings. If your last name falls within the letter range **M-R**, please bring snacks such as fresh fruit, crackers & cheese for the next meeting. About three dozen cookies, one cake, one to two pounds of fruit or cheeses, or one box of crackers is an appropriate amount. Remember to pick up your raffle ticket as one of the rewards of sharing - and good luck in the drawing!

last 2 years in the Treasurer's files.

**B.** Carol prepared the 2015-2016 Budget draft for the Board's review. She has set up the draft with 10% added to each item, based on the 2014-2015 budget. All items were reviewed. Jean requested that the amount for books be increased to \$600 to cover purchases of beginner books for new members. The storage locker continues to be the largest expense. There was discussion of how to limit what needs to be stored, while keeping the necessities for POE and OITP. Dennis made a motion to accept the amended budget, and the motion was passed. Carol will make the revisions and send the budget to George to post on the Yahoo website.

#### **VI. Old Business**

**A.** Carol has received a few vendor fees for Orchids in the Park, and will pass these on to the new Treasurer, Jack. Lauren & Tom will need to send out a reminder to the rest of the vendors to send in their fees as soon as possible.

#### **VII. New Business**

**A.** Due to ongoing audio problems with SKYPE, Dave would like to switch to Go to Meeting for the Board meetings. The 1st month is free, and there is a discount for non-profit organizations. Dave will send out an email in advance to the Board with set-up instructions. A face to face meeting was also suggested for next month when the new Board members take over, but this would need to be set up in advance. Other options for in person Board meetings were also discussed.

**B.** Dennis reported that the rates for the new candidate for the website manager, Orysia Reisen, would be \$35/ hour for approximately 2 hours per month. She will be looking into less expensive web hosting opportunities. Dennis will put together a contract for her for the Treasurer's records. Jack would like to set up a Dropbox account for the budget and other important documents.

**C.** Jean noted that this will be her last meeting as Past President. George will not be taking over this role, due to other commitments, so Mary Gerritsen will be returning as Past President for the next term. Jean will take care of donations to the Helen Crocker Russell Library, Conservatory of Flowers and the AOS Judges. Florence made a motion to donate \$1500 to the HCR Library, \$2000 to the Conservatory and \$500 to the AOS Pacific Central Judging Region. The motion was passed. Carol will write out the checks and cover letters for these donations.

**D.** The HCR Library has accepted the donation of books and Orchid Digest volumes from the Fleig family estate, and will send a letter to acknowledge the donation to the family. Tom will pass any pertinent information to Carol or Jack for the SFOS records.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted ,  
**Valerie Mountain**

**SFOS Bulletin Board**



## AOS Awards

### AOS Awards

American Orchid Society Pacific  
Judging Center Web  
site: <http://www.paccentraljc.org/>  
Please check the Web site for the  
most recent awards.



## Change of Address

Send all address and e-mail  
changes to:  
Florence Inserto -  
[flojoinsert@yahoo.com](mailto:flojoinsert@yahoo.com)  
or Claire Zvanski:  
(415) 341-3085  
- [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com)

**SFOS Membership**  
P.O. Box 27145,  
San Francisco, CA 94127

## Newsletter Items

The SFOS Newsletter welcomes  
news, articles, events, and any other  
items of interest to members. Send  
items by the 15th of the month in an  
email to Stanford Stapleton at:  
[stanford@rkmediasolutions.com](mailto:stanford@rkmediasolutions.com) Plea  
se include your name at the  
beginning or end of your text. All  
submissions will be reviewed and  
may be edited due to  
space limitations. Thank you!  
Sincerely,  
**San Francisco Orchid Society**



The Bulletin Board is a free service for SFOS members' orchid related items. Send items by the 15th of the month by email to: [stanford@rkmediasolutions.com](mailto:stanford@rkmediasolutions.com) Include your name, phone number, and how long you want the item to run. We will also run items of interest from other orchid societies. All submissions will be reviewed and may be edited.

## Upcoming Events

### June 5, 2015 7:30pm - SFOS General Meeting

**Main Speaker - Sam Tsui - The Orchid Inn Ltd.**

**Subject: The Wonderful World of Brachypetalums and their Culture**

**Skill Session- Dexter Hodes - How to Mount Your Orchids**

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### June 5 – 7, 2015 San Jose Orchid Exhibition and Wine Tasting.

\$10 Special Preview Night Friday 5:30 – 9:30 pm. \$5 Sat. & Sun. 9am – 5 pm. Wine Garden \$10 Fri – Sun. Winchester Mystery House, 525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose, CA 95128.

### July 10 -12, 2015: 35th Annual Summer Santa Barbara Orchid

Estate Open House. Friday & Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM. Held at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA. 93111. Visiting Guest Author: Dr. Ken Cameron, author of "Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation". Frequent potting and mounting demonstrations. And of course, the \$7.50 specials of seedlings, bare-roots, and Wayne's special annual pick of sprouted cymbidium back bulbs, select and awarded, species and hybrids, standard and miniatures. Call (800) 553-3387, e-mail: [sboe@sborchid.com](mailto:sboe@sborchid.com) , or visit [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)

### July 25 - 26, 2015 Orchids in the Park

Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Thousands of orchids both species and hybrids for your collection or to start one. Many are easy to grow and maintain- come see the show and enjoy the beauty and wonder of all types of orchids. \$5 Admission, \$4 Seniors, 16 years and under-free. SF County Fair Building corner of 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way.

## Upcoming Speakers

**July 2015 - Bob Hamilton**

**August 2015 - Winn Winnmaw from Myanmar (Burma)**

**September 2015 - Guillermo Salazar from Florida**

## Notices

## **Wear Your Name Badge**

The board voted to provide a special raffle ticket to members when they pick up and wear their name tags at our meetings. A drawing for a plant from the opportunity table will be limited to this and will immediately follow the choice by the person who did the Skill Session and the winner from the Show and Tell table. So, wearing your name tag will get you an early selection from the opportunity table.

Your name tag will be available at the membership table.

## **Member's Corner**

### **SFOS Monthly Show and Tell Table**

We want to thank our members who bring in their plants for display at the monthly meetings. This is a great viewing experience for all and a great way to learn about new plants we might want to try to grow in the future for ourselves.

But did you know that you can bring in a blooming plant that you might not be certain about the name or type and have our group of experts help identify your plant? The more you know, the better your chance of success. Thank you for participating and we'll see you and your plants at the next monthly meeting.  
The Board

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## **Announcements**

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### **On-line Membership Roster**

We have been updating our membership lists, and hopefully the on line roster is up to date too. If you want to check your information, or look up someone's contact information, go to [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/member/login.php](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/member/login.php)  
If you have forgotten your password there is a link to recover your password. If you have an orchid related business (e.g. nursery, decorating, landscaping, flower arranging, art, ceramics, photography etc.) and would like it listed in our business listing, please contact membership: [czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com) or [flojo1337@yahoo.com](mailto:flojo1337@yahoo.com)

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## **In Memorial**



### **Fred Shull**

I am very sorry to share the news that Fred Shull passed away early this morning (April 27). He had been ill for the past year.

Fred was a warm presence at Peninsula Orchid Society meetings for over 30 years and he was often one of the expert presenters of our Show & Tell table.

Fred was well known for his wonderful Cattleyas and Laelias. He grew these along with other orchids for more than 50 years. He loved to travel to Brazil to attend orchid expositions and to see orchids growing in their natural habitat.

Fred was an accredited American Orchid Society Judge and was a member of the Pacific Central Judging Center. He was always ready to encourage and help novice growers. His advice was also sought by experts. He was a much admired mentor to beginning AOS judges.

Fred gave generously of his time and served on the Peninsula Orchid Society Board many years. He was a past president of the San Francisco Orchid Society.

He will be greatly missed.

Chaunie Langland  
April 27, 2015

## **In Memorial**

### **Cynthia Fleig**

The San Francisco Orchid Society has lost one of our lifetime members, Cynthia Fleig who passed away in February of this year. In addition to being a lifetime member she was an accredited AOS judge who was retired from the active ranks only in recent years due to poor health.

She was a very private person but none could ever doubt the depth of her passion for orchids and her dedication to spreading that knowledge to hobbyists and student judges alike through her activity with the Pacific Central Judging Region of the AOS. She was a very good judge for 30 years and had a great eye for orchid structure. Her house was full of orchid literature and she did the work that was necessary to maintain her expertise throughout the years.

I met Cynthia when I began the training program as a student judge. She was fair but demanding of your best. For all the students, she made sure that you received the most up to date knowledge there was about a particular plant. Her sometimes probing questions were designed to ensure that you really learned your stuff so you could be successful not only as a judge but also so you could deepen and mature your love for orchids. She had a delightful sense of humor and when she got to know you, you would be chuckling at some of her insights about people, plants and just life in general.

Cynthia along with her husband began growing orchids in the early 1970's. With him she ran a business for a number of years with mostly Phaleonopsis and paphiopedilums called Cynard Orchids in Larkspur.

Cynthia is survived by her sister and brother-in-law who live in Salt Lake City and her step son who lives in Santa Cruz with his wife.

She was one of a kind and will be missed.

Carol Zoltowski  
May 3, 2015

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**San Francisco Botanical Garden** is having a 75th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday May 31, from 11AM to 5PM. SFOS will have a table there to promote our society, recruit new members, and to chat with folks about orchids. The event is free to the public, and as many as 5,000 people may attend. There will be international music and dance performances, and activities for children and adults. I need some volunteers to help staff the table for just an hour or two - so you'll have plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the celebration! Please contact me at [dave@hermeyer.us](mailto:dave@hermeyer.us) or 415-255-6322.

***Dave Hermeyer***

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**MEMBER PLANT SALES  
ORCHIDS IN THE PARK  
July 25 & 26, 2015**

Help your Society and yourself by selling your excess plants at the Member Plant Sales table. Make space for your new orchids. Just inform Kay of your intent to bring plants and mark each sale plant with its name, your code and price, i.e., Maxillaria marginata KK-1 \$10.00, and give Kay a master list. Help to sell plants for at least 3 hours. You get 75% of the price. SFOS gets 25% and pays the sales tax. You may bring plants anytime during the event, but Friday or early on Saturday is best. If you have questions, ask Kay at a meeting or contact her at [kayklumb@gmail.com](mailto:kayklumb@gmail.com) or 415 648-8271

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**California Sierra Nevada Judging Center**

The California Sierra Nevada Judging Center has its April awards online, just in time for show season. <http://www.csnjc.org>

***Kathy Barrett***

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**AOS Webinars-One Free, One for Members**

The upcoming **AOS Webinars** are:

- On 5/27/15 at 8:30p.m. EST, John Salventi will present - Orchid Nutrition, Taking the Mystery out of Feeding Your Orchids. This is for AOS members only.
- On 6/10/15 at 8:30p.m. EST, Ron McHatton will present another Greenhouse Chat. This webinar is open to all! Just go to the AOS website at AOS.org to register for log in information for either webinar.

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**Special Events**

# ORCHIDS in the Park



## **ORCHIDS IN THE PARK JULY 25 & 26, 2015**

10 AM TO 5 PM \$5 Admission \$4 Seniors

Children 16 and under - free

Species, hybrids, exotics - all beautiful!

San Francisco County Fair Building 9th Ave and Lincoln  
San Francisco, CA