



San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter

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August 2015 Volume 64 Number 8

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.

August Speaker

Robert Hamilton

Hawk Hill Orchids - Cool Growers

Membership

[Join the SF Orchid Society](#)
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SFOS Meeting

Tues. August 4, 2015



Tues. August 4, 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

Robert Hamilton
Hawk Hill Orchids - Cool Growers

Skill Session

Dennis Olivas
D & D Orchids
*General Orchid Care: Tips and
Tricks*

Plant Opportunity Table

Robert Hamilton & John Leathers

Robert Hamilton, born in Berkeley, CA in 1946. Raised and educated throughout the Berkeley school systems including UC Berkeley, with a significant interest in chemistry and physics. His career plans changed when he decided to become a scientific glassblower specializing in electron tubes, lasers and optics. In 1985 he became the equipment and facilities manager of University of CA - Berkeley Microfabrication laboratory and now manages the equipment of the newer Nanofabrication lab, a lab that serves 450 researchers. In addition to orchid growing, he enjoys classical piano studies.

John Leathers was born in Illinois. His professional career began as a graphic arts designer. John eventually became the manager of the University of California - Printing Services, an operation founded in 1873 to print for all of UC's campuses. John retired from UC in 2006 to pursue and interest in growing and hybridizing cool growing orchids. John maintains a significant collection of plein air and figural art.



Bob Hamilton

***Hawk Hill Orchids-
Cool Growers***

Hawk Hill Orchids

2015-2016 SFOS

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Dracula Raven FCC



This presentation will be a general talk about the ongoing efforts of John Leathers and Bob Hamilton in growing and hybridizing cool growing, high elevation, neotropical orchids.

Our growing began in a solarium, attached to our Berkeley home, the former home of musician Country Joe McDonald. Our first orchid was a Stanhopea purchased at a UC Botanic Garden public sale.

After a move to a different house we built a 15 x 25' greenhouse and eventually added rented space in commercial greenhouses. We decided on the name "Hawk Hill Orchids" after purchasing property in Humboldt Count, on Hawks Hill Rd.

Since 1982 we have specialized in cool growing orchids. John's main interests are Draculas, Masdevallias, Pleurothallids and

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A California Non Profit 501(c)3

Corporation

SFOS NEWSLETTER

August 2015

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 or Claire Zvanski:

(415) 341-3085

czvanski@hotmail.com.

2015 Dues

(\$25 per year-Individual)

(\$40 per household-2 or more- per year)

other species. Bob's main interest is Odontoglossum hybrids. Hawk Hill hybridizes in these genera. We've made seminal contributions in the field of in-vitro orchid propagation including the artificial manipulation of chromosome numbers.

This talk encapsulates our treasure hunt for beautiful, cool growers beginning in the forests of the Andes and continuing in greenhouses via exploring the genomes of these extraordinary flowering plants.

John and Bob have been partners the last 40 years and have grown orchids since their meetup in 1975.

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- June 8, 2015

Present: Dave Hermeyer, Valerie Mountain, Lauren Nguyen, Jack Ryder, Chris Mende, Claire Zvanski, Dexter Hodes, Dennis Westler, Florence Inserto, Fred Schechter, Tom Perlite, Mary Gerritsen, Jean Lee

The meeting started at 7:30.

I. Treasurer

A. Jack: Checking: \$14,974.26, High Yield Savings: \$148,573.12, Market Rate Savings: \$1507.20. He is working with Beverly to get Quicken updated with the proper transaction codes. He will take care of getting cash in preparation for the OITP weekend.

II. Vice President

A. Lauren: The speaker for the August meeting will be Bob Hamilton from Hawk Hill Orchids, topic Cool Orchids. He will also provide the Opportunity Table. Dennis Olivas will run the Skill Session, topic TBD. September speaker will be Guillermo Salazar; October will be Holger Perner from China, topic Orchids of China; November will be Fred Clarke, December will be Norman Fang; and January's speaker will be Pierre Pujol.

III. Membership

A. Claire & Florence: 3 new members joined and one renewed at the July monthly meeting, and several new members have joined online.

IV. POE

A. Tom and Frances met with Bel Campo Meats regarding

Dues may be payable at any SFOS meeting,
or go the Web

site 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

**Allyson Moulton
Besgrow-New Zealand
Bob Chirico
Helmut Drews**

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

A - F

SFOS members are encouraged to help out with refreshments, setup and cleanup at Monthly Meetings. If your last name falls within the letter range **A - F**, 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!

catering for POE. They will be providing food, beer and wine. There will also be pastry, coffee and ice cream vendors, and all food vendors will be paying fees this year. The catering will be more upscale than past years, and there will be a new layout at the back of the hall. Plant vendor invitations are being sent out starting next week. Taiwan has not committed yet to be a sponsor, and Frances is continuing to look for other sponsors. Vendor fees are being adjusted this year to be based on square footage. Some booths, especially at the back of the hall will increase in price, and there will be a new layout with a few added booths. The main exhibit will be a landscaped area for a new look for the vendors' displays. Casper Curto will be doing the front entrance display; his design is in works. The theme for this year is "Legacy of Orchids". A local art gallery, Arader Gallery, will have watercolors and prints to exhibit and also for the Silent Auction, based on the theme of the show. The Show Committee has decided not to have the Gala night this year, based on the low attendance of previous years, along with the costs of rent, food and music. Thursday will be Plant Judging day, as usual, and the Show Committee is discussing events for Thursday evening.

V. OITP

A. Lauren: There is still a need for more volunteers, especially on Sunday. Claire will contact the newer members to see if anyone is willing to volunteer. There will be speakers for both Saturday and Sunday. Mary will post the list of speakers and the schedule on the SFOS Facebook page. Promotional information has been submitted to the SF Chronicle, SFfuncheap.com, orchid boards, etc. The SF Chronicle will have ads in three issues the week before the show. New postcards, and emails to over 6000 addresses are being sent out. The show will also be posted on the SFOS Facebook page, along with a coupon. Lauren is finalizing the catering with Lisa.

VI. Old Business

A. Dave proposed adding higher levels for membership with added perks, to the current membership levels.

Amount Level Perks

\$25 Standard (same as now)

\$40 Household (same as now)

\$75 Supporting (same as now) POE weekend pass (in lieu of Gala ticket) plus t-shirt

\$150 SFOS Patron 4 POE weekend passes plus t-shirt

\$500 SFOS Benefactor Above, plus mention in newsletter and POE program

\$1,000 SFOS Orchid Circle Above, plus donation of one third of amount to OCA towards purchase of orchid reserve land.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to add the new membership levels. The membership forms will need to be updated.

B. SFOS brochures and postcards are also being updated. Mary noted that she has boxes of the current brochures and she will pass these on to Claire & Florence.

VII. New Business

A. Jack proposed reducing the number of raffle tickets to one per dollar as a way to streamline the raffle and reduce the amount of paper. Claire noted that other societies charge \$1.00



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 -
floinsert@yahoo.com
or Claire Zvanski:
(415) 341-3085
- 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 Please
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



per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Since this would be a major
change to the Opportunity Table, Mary proposed that the Board
should present this to the membership at the monthly meeting
for discussion.

B. Timeliness of website information: Dennis will be working with
our new webmaster, Orysia, to keep the SFOS website more
updated with the newsletter, meeting dates, OITP information on
the home page, etc. Lauren will also pass the upcoming speaker
information to Dennis to post on the site.

C. Email communication to the membership is currently done by
Stanford. A discussion was held about using Yahoo Groups or
Facebook. The consensus was that the logistics would be
difficult to reach all the membership and it would be left as is.

D. Mary proposed adding an announcement to the newsletter
when a member passes away, so all are informed.

E. Go To Meeting for virtual board meetings: the free trial period
is over soon, so a discussion was held about continuing to use it
going forward. There were a few issues with sound and dropping
connections during the meeting, but it was agreed that it worked
better than Skype. The cost for non-profits is \$239/ year plus a
\$10 fee. There will still be one or two in person meetings per
year, and various locations were proposed for these. Dave made
a motion to continue with Go To Meeting for one year. The
motion was seconded and passed.

F. Fred noted that there have only been a few responses to the
Orchid Coaching program so far. Another mention will be made
in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Mountain

SFOS Bulletin Board

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 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

August 4, 2015 7:30pm - SFOS General Meeting

Main Speaker - Robert Hamilton
Subject: Hawk Hill Orchids - Cool Growers

**Skill Session- Dennis Olivas - General Orchid Care: Tips
and Tricks**

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.

August 1, 2015 Saturday California Sierra Nevada Speaker's Day 9 AM - 5 PM Odd Fellows Building 1831 Howe Avenue at Alta Arden Sacramento, CA \$10 advance; \$20 at the door for sponsoring societies or AOS members; \$25 general admission Speaking will be Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Peter Tobias of the Orchid Conservation Alliance and Steve Beckendorf of the AOS Conservation Committee.

August 1st, 2015 California Orchids Mini Sales Continue - 10 AM - 4 PM 515 Aspen Road, Bolinas 415-868-0203 info@californiaorchids.com

Mary Nisbet/California Orchids www.californiaorchids.com

September 19, 2015 Peninsula Orchid Society Annual Auction 1:30 - 5 PM San Mateo Garden Center San Mateo, CA

November 11-15, 2015 AOS Members Meeting Hosted by the Northern Nevada Orchid Society
Atlantis Casino & Resort 3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89502 www.nnvos.org

November 14 - 15, 2015 Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show & Sale Sat. 9 - 5PM; Sun. 10 - 4 PM Santa Cruz

Speakers

September 2015 - Guillermo Salazar from Florida

October 2015: Holger Perner from China; topic: Orchids of China (preorder available)

November 2015: Fred Clarke, topic TBD

December 2015: Norman Fang; topic: Native Orchids of Taiwan/genus Cataseum.

January 2016: Pierre Pujol

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

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
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 or flojo1337@yahoo.com

ARE YOU LOST?

ARE YOU LOST, LONELY, OR BEWILDERED AT SFOS MEETINGS? Probably not, because you are an accomplished orchidist and a long time Society Member.

On the other hand, many new Members **do** have these feelings, and would appreciate a personal Coach to turn to at meetings as well as close to home to help them become absorbed into our orchid community. The plan is to present new members with contact information for two Coach volunteers from which to choose.

If you have the time and inclination to extend yourself as a Coach, please email the following information to **Fred Schechter** at onpump@gmail.com:
Name, Neighborhood, email, telephone and/or cell phone number, orchid specialty, and the most convenient time for receiving an initial contact call.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Notes from the Prez

Conserving Orchids, Conserving Water

Although we all know about our monthly meetings and our two annual orchid shows, some of you may not know that two of the purposes of SFOS as stated in our bylaws, are orchid conservation and preservation of orchid habitat. To that end, the Orchid Conservation Committee was formed three years ago. The committee solicits conservation grant proposals, and makes awards to selected accredited individuals or organizations. In many areas of the world, even a modest award can go a long way towards protecting native orchids and educating local populations about the need for orchid conservation. And orchid conservation benefits not only the orchids native to a region, but also the whole spectrum of plants, insects, frogs, birds, and other animals that live there too.

So where does that money come from? From YOU! At each of our orchid shows, you can donate all those extra plants you've been propagating, but don't really have any more room for. At the Member Plant Sales tables, your plants will be distinguished by a lilac plant tag or sticker, indicating that 100% of the proceeds will be set aside for orchid conservation. What, you say you don't have any extra plants you've divided? Well, you can also support orchid conservation by going to the shows and buying the plants that others have donated!

As we are all so very aware, we are having a drought. We're all trying to save water of course, and recently I found a way to save quite a bit in my garden – I'm collecting water runoff from my roof, with a super-simple collection system. I removed the cleanout plug from a downspout which drains one half of my roof, and stuffed a rag tightly into the pipe just below the plug. I then put an old 30 gallon plastic trash can under the cleanout plug opening. On misty nights (we're had a lot of them in San Francisco lately) and even on foggy nights, I collect from 10 to 30 gallons per night!

Just 1/32" of precipitation on a 1,000 square foot roof equals 20 gallons of water. After a dry spell, the water the first night is pretty dirty and a tiny bit salty (typically 100-200 ppm, not very good for orchids), but I found that on following nights the water is extremely pure – about 30-40 ppm, better than Hetch Hetchy water. So I save some of it to use with my orchids, and the rest I use for my garden.

Dave Hermeyer
President

San Francisco Orchid Society

**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 or 415 648-8271

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center

The California Sierra Nevada Judging Center has its June awards online, just in time for show season.

<http://www.csnjc.org>

Speaker's Day -August 1, 2015. Speaking will be Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Peter Tobias of the Orchid Conservation Alliance and Steve Beckendorf of the AOS Conservation Committee.

Kathy Barrett

**AOS Awards to Robert Hamilton and John Leathers
Spring 2015 Portland, OR**

At the spring 2015 AOS Members' Meeting held in Portland, two of our lifetime members, Bob Hamilton and John Leathers received special recognition.

This was a surprise to the general group and John told me that there was subterfuge involving the two of them just to get them to Portland. Neither knew that they were to be given recognition at the meeting. They were told that the other would be receiving awards. He, John was told that Bob was getting a recognition and Bob was told that John was getting the recognition. Neither was supposed to tell the other. And I don't think either did. It was truly a surprise all the way around.



John received a hybridizer's award for his work in Masdevallias and Draculas. The AOS Hybridizer Award honors an individual's lifelong commitment to hybridizing. They are given for a focused effort such as John's focus in Pleurothallidinae. John is known also for his generosity and many of us in the SFOS have been the frequent beneficiaries of pieces of John's fabulous efforts but we have the luxury of seeing the fabulous 'eye candy' that his plants display during the POE in the Wardian case that the Pleurothallid Alliance sets up as their display. Who could ever forget Dracula Raven? Amazing is not even a word that does it justice. And that is only to name one of his fabulous crosses. His Masdevallia coccinea line breedings are nonpareiled and I could go on and on about his accomplishments.



Bob was given the President's Award. The President's Award is granted to someone whom the president of the AOS feels has made an outstanding contribution to the Society. Frank Smith, the AOS President, wanted to give recognition to Bob for his work in polyploidy conversions and his role in the application of the herbicide Oryzalin to orchids as a replacement to colchicine. Is there anyone who is more conversant in *Odontoglossums* [regardless of what some may call them]? His work has given us colorful and inventive beauties that are simply stunning to behold in bloom. Bob is always willing to share his knowledge and answer questions about orchid genetics and the practical application and outcome of orchid genetics relating to flower color and form phenotypic expression.

I am proud to say that I know John and Bob and even prouder to be able to share with the SFOS the notice of their recognition by the AOS. One day I want to grow up and know and produce orchids like they do.

**Carol Zoltowski, VMD
AOS Representative, SFOS
Trustee AOS**

Photos courtesy of Blair Cash

**Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Orchid Flask and
Orchid list USA Autumn 2015**

Dear friends and customers,

Holger Perner and Wenqing Perner from Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Ltd. China will visit California at the beginning of *October 2015* and bring over orchid flasks and orchids.

In the attachment file below, please find 2 price lists for USA

autumn 2015. Please feel free to give this PDF file to anyone that might have interest in it. Please read the following information before place your order:

1, Order timing: Please send us your order confirmation as soon as possible, the dead line is 20th September. .

2, How to order: Please refer the PDF price list file, and write to info@hengduanbiotech.com for confirming availability, price and postage cost.

3, How to pay: We receive your payment by cash check(made out to Wenqing Perner) or via our Paypal account: sales@hengduanbiotech.com, please add 3% commission fee, as paypal China charges us 6% commission fee, so we share the cost with our customers.

4, How to deliver: We would bring over your pre orders and deliver to you at the society meetings where Holger is invited as speaker or send by US Priority Parcel.

Mrs. Wenqing Perner
Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology

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[http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c331141/
Orchid Flask list HengduanBiotech 150715.pdf](http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c331141/Orchid_Flask_list_HengduanBiotech_150715.pdf)

[http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c331141/
Orchid-List USA Autumn 2015.pdf](http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c331141/Orchid-List_USA_Autumn_2015.pdf)

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Special Events



Orchids in the Park

San Francisco Orchid Society
Summer Show and Sale

July 25-26, 2015

10 am-5 pm

San Francisco County Fair Building
Golden Gate Park

\$5 admission, \$4 seniors 65+
Children 16 and under free

Seminars & Workshops

Thousands of Orchids for Sale!

Our vendors for 2015

Orchids and Gardens, Hanging Gardens, D & D Flowers,
Ecuagenera, Seed Engel, ORCHIDesign, Brookside Orchids
Austin Creek Orchids, Andy's Orchids, Barsh Tropicals
The Tiny Jungle, Paphiness, Calwest Tropical Supply
Orchid Zone, City College of San Francisco
Orchid Conservation Alliance

The SFOS is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org



CALIFORNIA
SIERRA
NEVADA
JUDGING
CENTER

Presents

**California Sierra Nevada
Speaker's Day**

Saturday, August 2, 2014
9am to 5pm
Odd Fellows Building
1831 Howe Avenue at Alta Arden
Sacramento, CA

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - Saturday, August 2, 2014

- 9:00 AOS Judging, see how we judge
- 11:00 The Laelias of Mexico, their hybrids and how to grow them
Jim Rose, Cal-Orchid
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 12:45 Auction
- 1:45 Complex Paphiopedilums
Theresa Hill, Hillview Garden
- 2:45 Phalaenopsis Species, Their Habitat and Culture
Carlos Fighetti, President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance
- 3:45 Break out Sessions
Theresa Hill on Paphiopedilum culture
Carlos Fighetti on Phalaenopsis culture
Dennis Olivas on growing Cattleyas outdoor in Northern California

\$10 advance
\$20 at the door for Sponsoring Societies or AOS members
\$25 general admission

CSNJC is a 501 c 3 organization. Visit our website at csnjc.org
All talks subject to change

Commercial Greenhouse Space for Rent in
Bolinas at California Orchids, 515 Aspen Rd.
3318 square feet, \$1100.00/month plus % of utilities
Expanded metal benches, overhead watering system
Under bench misting system
Hot water heat under bench + Back up heater
Automatic Ridge vent
Contact Mary at California Orchids
mnisbet@pacbell.net
(415) 868-0203



P.O. Box 27145, San Francisco, CA, 94127