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San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter

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Membership

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SFOS Meeting

Tues. December 4, 2012

December 2012 Volume 61 Number 12

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.

December Speaker

[Alan Koch](#)

Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture

Alan Koch



SF Orchid Society

Tues. December 4, 2012

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

Alan Koch

***Species Habitat,
Hybrid Culture***

Skill Session

Jacob Knecht

***Mounting Orchids
Materials & General Care***

Plant

Opportunity Table

Alan Koch

Gold Country Orchids



Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, as well as many International Publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture

Having been asked how to grow numerous hybrids over the years, I always first think of the species that make up the hybrid and how the species grow in nature. Knowing how a plant grows in nature helps me explain how to grow the hybrids it makes. This talk examines how many species grow in nature and then how to apply this knowledge to grow the hybrids they produce. It also gives information on how to find out how the species grow in nature. This talk is heavy on culture but is very useful for novice to expert.

**2011-2012 SFOS
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[m](#)

AOS Representative



Dinner with the Speaker

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

2012 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 there are errors, please contact Florence Inerto - flojoinsert@yahoo.com or Claire Zvanski: (415) 341-3085 - czvanski@hotmail.com .

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info@orchidsanfrancisco.org

A California Non Profit 501(c)3
Corporation
SFOS NEWSLETTER December
2012

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2012 Dues

(\$25 per year)

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 (with Email Newsletter Option)
- \$45/year (with USPS Mail Newsletter Option)

Thank you!

Welcome New Members

**Sandy Nesting-Hayes
Tom Hayes
Rene Mendoza
Steve Fernandes
Jody MacKenzie
Joseph Wiedman**

Please welcome our new members whenever you meet
them and especially at the San Francisco Orchid
Society meetings.

Refreshments

H - M

SFOS members are encouraged to help out with
refreshments, setup and cleanup at Monthly Meetings.
If your last name falls within the letter range **H -
M** please bring snacks such as fresh fruit, ice cream,
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

dra
win
g!



Minutes of SFOS Board Meeting

Minutes of SFOS Board Meeting, November 19, 2012

Virtually Present: Mary Gerritsen, Jean Lee, Dennis Westler, Valerie Mountain, Jeff Harris, Ricki Kohn, Chris Mende, Eric Wells, Allison Lehman

Absent: Steve Beckendorf, Florence Inserto, Claire Zvanski

I. Vice President's Report

A. No report. Steve was out of town.

II. Membership Report

No report. The board will try to make sure either Claire or Florence can be on the next SFOS board conference call.

III. Treasurer's Report

A. We have \$142,000 in our Wells Fargo accounts (\$39,000 in checking, \$101,000 in Savings and \$1500 in the special account)

B. Our November speaker Maynard Michel donated his speaker fee (\$250) to the International Phalaenopsis Alliance - The donation was arranged via their treasurer (Olie Garrison). Jeff sent Dr. Michel a letter thanking him and confirming that the donation had been made.

IV. Old Business

A. Mary: The Conservation Committee had its first conference call in October. Present on the call were Carl Carter, Cindy Hill, George McRae, Mark Sullivan, Steve Beckendorf and Mary Gerritsen. After some discussion regarding how to proceed, Cindy Hill suggested following the San Diego Orchid Society Conservation Committee model. This group raises funds from plants sales at meetings and shows to fund various projects. Projects are solicited via a website announcement, and evaluated and prioritized (based on available funds) by the conservation committee members. Cindy was going to contact Ron Kaufman to obtain additional information about organization. The committee agreed to model the SFOS conservation committee after the highly successful San Diego Orchid Society model. The committee would like to start fund raising this year at the POE, and will seek donated plants to be sold to raise funds for the Conservation Committee projects.

B. Dennis: **POE report.** There will be a 3 day pass available this year to enable people to come multiple days to hear speakers and attend the show. **Speakers schedule:** Mary Gerritsen and Chris Mende are having good success getting a seminar schedule established. There will be a wide range of topics and they are working on the schedule, deciding which topics are best for the different days. **SFOS society display:** Casper Curto has come up with a nice display plan for the SFOS, and is seeking some volunteers to help him with set up and display finalization. **Open Benches:** There will also be benches available for member plants that are not part of the display. **Other details:** The front entry plans are coming together. City College will be providing volunteers for the show. The Tee shirt designs are done. Winery confirmations are coming in, and the confirmed vendor list is on the website. Packets have been sent out to the area orchid societies to ask for displays. Kathy Barrett will be writing an article during the show for Orchids Magazine. Abbey Rents has sent in their estimate. Ferry Plaza wine vendors will

be selling wine throughout the show. They have also proposed to use our venue for a party on Friday night after the show closes. Ken Geibel is trying to arrange for Off the Grid food trucks are at Fort Mason on the Friday evening. His concept is that for a reduced admission cost, attendees to the Off the Grid event could use tables set up in the display orchids to enjoy the show. **Award Trophies:** The award trophies this year will be custom glass plaques from Nature Glass. The design will feature the spray of Phalaenopsis (from the 2013 poster design) for the major trophies and etched glass suncatchers for the minor trophies.

IV. New Business

A. Mary has sent out the sound system for repairs again. We will use the Paul's substitute system, which worked well for the last meeting, until the other one is repaired. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Mountain

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AOS Awards

AOS Awards

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

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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

December 4, 2012, 7:30pm - SFOS General Meeting

Alan Koch - [Main Speaker](#)

Subject: **Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture**

Skill Session - **Jacob Knecht**

Mounting Orchids-Materials and General Care

January 18, 2013 - Friday Cymbidium Orchid Auction - Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers

Auction: 7:00 PM Reg. & Preview: 6:30 - 7:00 PM. San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403 www.goldcoastcymbidiumgrowers.com ;
bacyma@yahoo.com (510) 582-5896

January 25, 2013 - Peninsula Orchid Society show plant entry and judging - AOS and CSA judging, ribbon judging, Perpetual Trophies awarded.

January 26 & 27, 2013 - Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale - Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City - 10 AM to 5 PM both days - orchid show, presentations and demonstrations, member sales area, and vendor sales area. Adult admission only \$5. Seniors, disabled, and children 12-16 admitted for \$3. Parking is free.

www.penorchidsoc.org

February 21 - 24, 2013 San Francisco Pacific Orchid Exposition "East Meets West"

Ft. Mason - San Francisco, CA

Upcoming Speakers

January 8, 2013 Ron Kaufmann - Rupicolous Orchids

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.

SF POE 2013 Tickets are available for sale on the SFOS Website.
They are a great Holiday Gift Suggestion.

Looking for Holiday Gift suggestions? Why not give your friends, neighbors and loved ones tickets to the **San Francisco POE 2013** being held February 21 - 24, 2013 at Ft. Mason, San Francisco. Multiple day discount tickets are available along with tickets for the Friday Evening Gala and Auction. Single Day tickets are also available and make an ideal gift to let your friends know that you care about them. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

Member's Corner

San Francisco Orchid Society Conservation Committee

The SFOS conservation committee needs your help! Our next fund raising activity will be at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. This is a great chance for those extra plants of yours taking up room in your greenhouse, lathhouse or kitchen table to find a new home, and to raise money for conservation at the same time. The committee is seeking donated

orchids and/or orchid related supplies which will be sold at the member sales table at the POE. For these donated plants, 100% of the proceeds will go to support orchid conservation. The committee will be finalizing several announcements for Bay Area Orchid Society newsletters, a web page which will detail fund raising activities and guidelines for organizations, groups or individuals seeking support for conservation related activities. Set aside those extra plants and divisions; more information regarding this initiative will follow in the January newsletter. For more information, please contact Mary Gerritsen meg570@comcast.net.

**Mary E. Gerritsen, President
San Francisco Orchid Society**

San Francisco Orchid Society Display at the POE

This year the theme is "East Meets West", a theme with lots of great possibilities for a wonderful society display. Are you interested in helping out with design and assembly of the society display at the POE? Last year we had a bench-type display, but this year we are going back to the themed display. Casper Curto has volunteered to chair this committee, and would appreciate some additional help. If you are interested in this creative activity, please contact Casper. His email is: caspercurt@comcast.net

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

Exciting Changes to Member Sales at Meetings

At the suggestion of one of our members we are making changes to member sales at our meeting. This is both as a "thank you" to members who have helped us have a very successful year, and as an experiment.

Starting with the September Meeting through the end of the year, members can bring in their plants to sell, and we will not take the usual 25%. The catch? They have to sell their own plants-Asuka will not be selling your plants for you. Sellers will need to bring some money to make change. Members are invited to bring in their extra plants, divisions, even supplies or other items, price them, and sell them.

We only ask two things:

1. You take home the plants you do not sell at the end of the evening. Plants should be put back in members vehicles before the raffle starts at the end of meeting.
2. As only member can sell plants, you will need to wear your name badge. Both business

members and regular members may sell plants.

Hopefully this will encourage a greater diversity of plants for sale, and our members will be able to talk to the seller about the plant they want to buy. Sellers will enjoy a few more dollars in their pockets-hopefully to buy more orchids!

As was the case in years past, we will not require that the people purchasing the plants be SFOS members, although hopefully they will consider joining the society.

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Announcements

Preparing Your Orchids for Display at POE 2013

COME ONE, COME ALL! Everyone is invited to bring your plants in for display at the spring show! It's fun to share your blooming beauties with others, to get to know your fellow society members, and it's exciting to see visitors learn about growing orchids by seeing your plants. Here are suggestions for getting your plants in show-ready condition.

For best results, start well before the show date.

One to two months before the show:

Identify likely candidates for display - plants that are beginning to spike, those that bloom regularly in February, ones that can be transported in your car. Begin to stake inflorescences as they get to 6-8 inches tall, preferably using bamboo stakes and twist-ties, so they present themselves at their best. (It's better to begin staking early than too late.) Use a long enough stake to support what is expected to develop. Inflorescences can be trained to be upright or arching. Flower buds will adjust their position towards light, so keep the plant orientation stable once the spike begins to develop. (I do this by keeping the tag at the back of the pot.) Paphiopedilums should be staked so the flower hangs normally, not facing the sky.

Make sure ventilation is good to avoid botrytis fungus spotting. Botrytis is likely when nights are cool and humidity is high, without good air movement, and can cause last-minute problems.

One week before the show

Clean up dead leaves, dried backbulbs, bracts, old spikes and blooms. Gently clean leaves with 50:50 water and milk or lemon juice (top only) and a cotton ball or clean damp soft cloth (do not use on glaucous-leaved plants). Do not use leaf shine products! Trim dead leaf tips at an angle to appear natural, using **sterile** razor or scissors. Examine the foliage, especially the undersurface, and sheaths, for signs of scale and other pests. Be careful - Inflorescences are soft when immature but as they elongate, can become brittle and inflexible. Keep water off the buds and flowers to minimize damage.

Attach more twist ties to stake if needed, but keep it unobtrusive. Trim a tall stake to

flower level to avoid poking out an eyeball. You can use cotton balls to but space between developing buds, if needed - just remove them before watering.

A few days before the POE setup

Select the 'finalists' that will be at their blooming prime for the show. Keep protecting emerging buds from bruising, water damage, botrytis. Begin to think about how best to transport the plants. Planning is critical to success. Suitable boxes, packing, helping hands and a vehicle are all part of successful transport. When selecting plants will be in flower at show time, consider how they can be packed and how those containers can fit in your vehicle.

Day of show setup and Transport:

Soak the plant well and apply some fresh mix/bark topdressing. Consider adding some spanish moss to keep delicate roots covered. Clean the pot or use a decorative slip pot or cachepot to hide the plastic pot. Make sure plant is correctly labeled, legibly, with all names fully written out. Put YOUR NAME tag, phone number, on tape or address label on bottom of pot and on an extra label inside the pot. Make sure you have no hitchhikers! Leave infested plants at home. Hosing off aphids as a quick fix inevitably leaves a few hitchhikers that may spread to other plants at a show.

Check that your inflorescences are staked and tied to display their blooms to best advantage. Try to use stakes of the uniform diameter and color (preferably an inconspicuous green); ties should match each other and be as inconspicuous as possible.

Before loading your plants in the car, pack the inflorescences with soft tissue paper or florist's wrapping paper to minimize chafing by leaves etc. Use temporary stakes to support arching or pendulous spikes and wedge the pots into styrofoam boxes to ensure plant and spike are stable during trip to the show; this should prevent them falling over if you need to stop suddenly. You may want to double pot plants for extra stability in a moving vehicle. (Set plant pot inside a larger (empty) pot or bucket.

While in transit, watch out for sunburn or freezing. Park in the shade if plants are left in the car. Use a picnic cooler to transport tiny pleurothallids in cool, humid comfort.

Unpack carefully, checking that any stakes are still secure. Groom again if needed, and remove any travelling supports. If the plant is normally hung or suspended in your growing area it is your responsibility to ensure that the plant is appropriately staged. Some members have created a variety of stands for their plants: all you need is something that will display the plant to its best advantage. This is particularly important for plants with trailing or hanging flowers.

Enter plants in show - go to the registration desk, ask for help if you have questions, to make sure your plants are entered in the correct class.
Remember, the more flower plants at the show, the better the show. So bring your plants or send them with someone else!! BE PART OF THE PARTY!!
If you have questions about preparing your plants for the big spring event, contact me at hill-cynthia@comcast.net.

See you at the show,

Cindy Hill

POE Ribbon Judging Chair

The Imperiale Youth Prize for 2013 - Pacific Orchid Exposition 2013

The San Francisco Orchid Society is proud to announce that once again we are going to be offering the Imperiale Youth Prize at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. This award, first given in 2010 recognizes excellence in culture for skilled growing and presentation. It is unique and valuable because it is awarded to the "Best Orchid Plant Grown by a Youth, age 17 and under." It is hoped that the award will also encourage a love of orchids in young people as well as an interest in research and conservation.

Eric Imperiale, who has endowed the award, has been a lover of plants since he was a child, seeing the pleasure horticulture gave both his parents and grandparents. He was introduced to orchids after his father Paul began to collect them, and his father's interest became a hobby and labor of love for the whole family. As a youth himself he entered plants in our show, and was the recipient of the old youth award we gave in years past. This love became his academic study, and eventually his career. Presently Eric is a nursery specialist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers where his skills are put to great use maintaining both displays and the important collections.

He decided to endow this award in recognition of the pleasure he got from showing as well as growing his plants, and the pride one gets from recognition of a good job. Our hobby and our society exist and continue because young people choose to pursue the cultivation of orchids and so it serves us, as well as them, to have this award again. The gratitude of the San Francisco Orchid Society to Eric for this trophy is huge and we hope that publicizing it gets more young people to enter plants, and to take up the hobby.

The medal itself is an artistic interpretation of a Dracula orchid rendered in sterling silver. It was designed and fabricated specifically and exclusively for the prize by Eric M. Imperiale.

For a bio of Eric in his own words, read on below. I had intended to excerpt it, but enjoyed his writing so much decided to publish it with minimal editing.

Dennis Westler

Chair - Pacific Orchid Exposition



***The Eric M. Imperiale
Youth Prize Award***

Eric M. Imperiale

Since I was a child, I have had a fascination with plants, seeing Grandparents and parents on both sides grow plants that were ornamental or edible. The first plants I grew were vegetables. Later grew cacti and succulents, carnivorous plants, bromeliads, and orchids caught my interest.

My journey into the world of orchids came shortly after my father's introduction to the marvelous plants. Awe for their beauty quickly became a family hobby and obsession. One plant led to another. Love for a plant turned into passion for a genus. A world of variety, oddities, scent, and color opened up to us and we were enraptured. Weekends were filled with travels to garden centers, orchid shows, orchid growers' greenhouses, orchid society sales, and botanical gardens.

We learned about the SFOS and quickly joined. Meetings were a wild mix of trolling the plant opportunity table and devouring of speakers' talks. Members of the SFOS shared their knowledge and told us about plants that were a must. The SFOS show was an annual pilgrimage where displays amazed and the vendors and society plant divisions flooded our senses and drained our budgets. The few dozen plants we started with grew in number. Soon a small greenhouse was being built in our back yard.

By the age of twelve my skills expanded from assistant to grower. Despite some stigma and a lack of understanding from my peers, my teenage years were infused with orchids.

In the tumultuous formative teen years, orchids helped provide stability and respite from the confusing quest for place in an ever-changing body and mind.

I began entering orchids at the SFOS shows and won ribbons in several open classes as well as winning the youth award twice. Although I continued to grow orchids, I stopped entering orchids in the show and focused on volunteering for the show - even taking days off school to help.

I began working in the orchid industry at the age of fifteen when I entered City College of San Francisco (CCSF) to study horticulture. I started as a grower for an orchid boarding company and over the years gained experience in commercial orchid crops and interior maintenance in commercial and residential settings. I also broadened my skills by working in landscaping.

While at CCSF I applied for and won a scholarship/internship from the SFOS. This gave me the opportunity to care for the CCSF orchid collection and intern at the Conservatory of Flowers (COF). Shortly thereafter I went to Cal Poly, SLO where I also cared for the orchid collection and joined the orchid society. When I came home I returned to the orchid business where I worked for several more years.

Upon graduation from college I tried several other enjoyable and rewarding professions but ultimately found myself drawn to plants. I worked for the City of San Francisco as a gardener and eventually had the opportunity to work at the COF. At the COF I am able to share the wonders of plants and orchids with the young and old from all parts of the world, while furthering the mission of research, conservation, and education.

As the SFOS Orchid Show grew into the Pacific Orchid Exposition, the youth prize quietly disappeared. As an adult I looked back in time with sweet sentimentality and found myself wanting to share with others the learning, community, and opportunities that orchids, the SFOS, and its members shared with me. The future of orchids and this world rests in the hands of the next generation. The passions, gifts, and potential of youth must be fostered in order to preserve and advance the accomplishments of prior generations. The Imperiale Youth Prize is one small contribution ensuring the inter-species success of plant and person.

Special Events

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers
Cymbidium Orchid Auction

Friday, January 18, 2013

Auction 7:00 PM
Registration & Preview 6:30-7:00 PM

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA 94403

Beautiful Cymbidiums and their
Companions, Including In Spike, Rarely
Available, and Show & Award Winners!

- 200 Plant Entries
- No Buyers Premium
- Absentee Bids Accepted



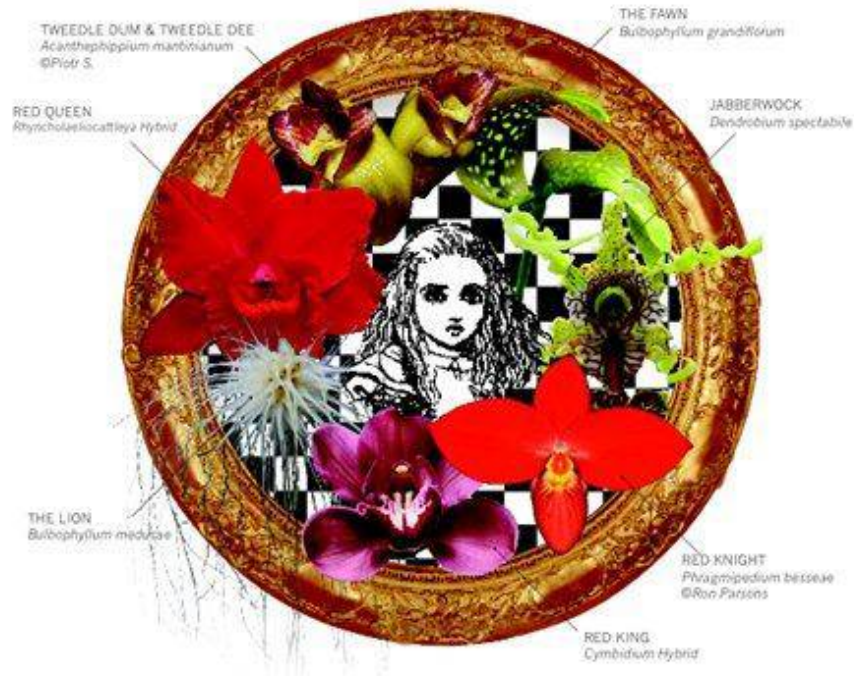
Cym. Hot Devon 'Bird of Paradise' AD/CSA
Photo by Darrel Wong

Catalog & Photos will be Available after January 7,
2013 at: www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com

Email Questions or Inquiries to
bacyms@yahoo.com or call (510) 582-5896



56th Peninsula Orchid Society Show & Sale



“Through the Looking Glass”

JANUARY 26-27, 2013 · 10 AM to 5 PM

- ↪ Spectacular Orchid Displays
- ↪ Speakers and Workshops
- ↪ Orchid Sales and Giveaways

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES BUILDING
1400 ROOSEVELDT AVE
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SENIORS / STUDENTS - \$3
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<http://penorchidsoc.org>



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Change of address?

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

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

Newsletter Submissions

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

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