

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Galeottia burkei from Venezuela

San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter

In This Issue

[Mary Gerritsen - July Speaker](#)

[Trekking to the Lost Worlds: Mt. Roraima, Venezuela](#)

[New Membership Directory](#)

July 2012 Volume 61 Number 7

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,

[SFOS Board Minutes](#)

[AOS Awards](#)

[SFOS Bulletin Board](#)

Quick Links

[San Francisco Orchid Society
Web Site](#)

[Membership/Change of Address](#)

[Newsletter Submissions](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Notices](#)

[Member's Corner](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

Membership

[Join the SF Orchid Society](#)
[Contact the Membership Chairman](#)
[Welcome New Members](#)

SFOS Meeting

Tues. July 3, 2012



SF Orchid Society

Tues. July 3, 2012

AOS Judging: 7:00 PM
Skills Session: 7:05 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

San Francisco County Fair

publications, and the Internet, maintenance of a reference library, and participation in worldwide activities.

July Speaker - Mary Gerritsen



***Symbolanthus elisabethae* from Venezuela**

Mary Gerritsen

Mary has been interested in plants for most of her adult life, and has been growing orchids on and off for the last 35 years, despite several cross country moves as part of her "other life" as a biomedical scientist.

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

Mary Gerritsen
Trekking to the Lost Worlds
Mt. Roraima, Venezuela

Skill Session

Marni Turkel
What's In Bloom?
Tips from an Expert

Plant

Opportunity Table
Anna Chai

2011-2012 SFOS
Officers/Contacts

President

Mary E. Gerritsen
meg570@comcast.net

Vice President

Steven Beckendorf
beckendo@berkeley.edu

Secretary

Valerie Mountain
415-664-5065
valeriemountain@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Jeff Harris
jharrisofs@gmail.com
415-586-9940

Show Treasurer

Dan Peter
650-563-9259
dan.peter@sbcglobal.net

Directors

Eric Wells
ejwells@sonic.net
415-656-4346

Her passion for orchids was rekindled when she moved to the San Francisco Bay area in 1997 and attended an orchid show. Returning home with a few plants, she decided to join a local orchid society to learn more about taking care of them, and from these beginnings, her current passion has grown exponentially!

Now Mary truly has put her roots down, and has orchids in her two greenhouses, three lath houses, outside, in her sun room, her office, and anywhere else she can. Her collection of about two thousand plants, mostly species, is rich in *masdevallias* and other miniature orchids of many different genera. She has co-authored two botanical books with Ron Parsons "*Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World*" and "*Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*", and is currently finishing a third book "*Miniature Orchid Species*", also co-authored with Ron Parsons. Hopefully the new book will be published in the late fall of 2012.

Mary is also a contributor to the AOS magazine *Orchids*, writing articles about her orchid trips to Borneo and Brazil, and with a story on her ascent of Mt. Roraima (Venezuela) to appear in an upcoming issue. One of Mary's favorite pastimes is to travel to exotic (and some not so exotic) places to see orchids *in situ*, and to gain a better understanding of their varied habitats. Thus she has visited Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Crete, Rhodes. Australia, Singapore and Borneo on orchid "field trips".

She has also traveled to various sites in the US and Canada to see North American native orchids. Mary has also been an active member of the Peninsula Orchid Society for many years, serving as a director, vice-president, president, and show chair.

Currently she is the president of the San Francisco Orchid Society and a member of the board of directors of the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

**Trekking to the Lost Worlds:
Mt. Roraima, Venezuela**

Allison Lehman

510-912-5800

allison@webbnet.com

Ricki Kohn

415-384-0427

ricki@rkmediasolutions.com

Chris Mende

chrismendefoto@aim.com

Jean Lee

Past President

Dennis Westler

Show Chair

Membership

Open

Newsletter Editor

Stanford Stapleton

415-384-0746

stanford@rkmediasolutions.com

AOS Representative

Carol Zoltowski

415-657-3222

czoltowski@sbcglobal.net

Orchid Digest

Representative

Jean Lee

415-665-6079

jeanleorchids@gmail.com

Plant Sales

Masaki Asuka

650-588-6753

Property Managers

Ellen Edelson

415-731-5924

Maureen Clarke

415-333-4033

maureenclarke@sbcglobal.net

Raffle Tickets

Ellen Edelson

415-731-5924

Maureen Clarke

415-333-4033

Librarian

Chris Mende

chrismendefoto@aim.com

Show Chair

Dennis Westler

415-336-2752

DennisWestler@aol.com



The tepuis are table-top shaped mountains or mesas, found in the Guiana Highlands of South America. The word tepui is a Penom word for "house of the gods", and tops of these islands in the sky intrigued the early explorers since their initial discovery. The tallest of them all is Mt. Roraima, located at the border of Venezuela, Brazil and Guyana, and it is one of the few that can be climbed without climbing gear or a helicopter. The top of the tepuis are completely isolated from the rainforest below, as well as from neighboring tepuis, and as a result, there are endemic flora and fauna not found anywhere else in the world. The mesas are poor in nutrients, but rich in orchids, carnivorous plants, bromeliads, and other, often primitive, plant species, and are a fascinating place to explore.

In April of 2010, Mary joined a small group led by Stewart McPherson (author of numerous books on carnivorous plants), that ascended Mt. Roraima and explored this botanic haven. Mary's talk will give you a virtual tour of this floristic adventure.

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.

POE Sponsorship

Frances Larose
650.548.6700

flarose@prmagic.com

Webmaster

Contact: Dennis Westler
DennisWestler@aol.com

Web Site

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

g

info@orchidsanfrancisco.org

A California Non Profit 501(c)3
Corporation

SFOS NEWSLETTER July 2012

If there are errors,
please contact Chris Mende at
chrismendefoto@aim.com.

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!

[back to top](#)

Welcome New Members

TBA

Refreshments

K - O

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



Minutes of SFOS Board Meeting

There was no SFOS Board Meeting June 2012

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

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

July 3, 2012, 7:30pm - SFOS General Meeting

Mary Gerritsen - Main Speaker

Subject: **Trekking to the Lost Worlds: Mt. Roraima, Venezuela**

Skill Session - Marni Turkel - What's in Bloom?

Marni will pick a few plants from her greenhouses and tell you how to grow them - what temperature, light and fertilizer they prefer, whether they would do best potted or mounted, tips for getting them to bloom, etc. - all the tricks of an expert orchid grower.

Saturday, June 30, 2012 10:30 - 2:30 PM Napa Valley Orchids Open Greenhouse

Come see the beautiful new greenhouse at Napa Valley Orchids. In the past few months, Napa Valley Orchids has come into more than 600 new orchid species plants. We've been busy repotting and mounting them--just can't keep them all. Come see for yourself and enjoy! 2536 MacGregor Court, Napa, CA 94558 707-255-8266

<http://www.napavalleyorchids.com/>

Saturday, June 30, 2012 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM A Tribute to Brian Wraxall Plant Sale

As a tribute to the late Brian Wraxall, his plants will be sold to raise donations to his favorite charity: cancer research at UCSF. The event will take place at his and his wife's home in Richmond, CA. 3765 Hidden Springs Ct., Richmond, CA 94803. There will be light refreshments. For more information, please contact George McRae at 510-233-7374. On the day of the event George can be contacted at 510-406-4054 as he will be at Brian's home.

July 13-15, 32nd Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair.

Friday July 13 & Saturday July 14, 9 AM to 5 PM. Sunday July 15, 10 AM to 4 PM. Earl Warren

Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA. (Highway 101 at Las Positas Road).

For more

information, visit the website: <http://orchidfair.com/> email to sboe@sborchid.com or call 1-800-553-3387.

July 13 - 15, 2012 Hatfield Orchids Summer Open House Fri -Sun 9 AM - 4 PM,
3793 Dufau Road, Oxnard, CA 93033. Rain or Shine! Hope you can join us, but if you cant, we can ship to you for free! Call George at (805) 901 0340-, email him at George@HatfieldOrchids.com, or check out the website at www.hatfieldorchids.com.

July 25, 2012 Golden Gate Cymbidium Society Auction & Potluck Dinner Wednesday at 7 pm. Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Bring a plant for donation and a potluck dish. Call for information at (510) 276-2851 www.GoldenGateCymbidiumSociety.com.

September 5, 2012 Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Fall Auction Wednesday 7 PM. 11540 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose. Lots of good deals and the excitement of an auction. Brings lots of bags and boxes. See their website at www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org.

September 15 - 16, 2012 Orchids in the Park Sale Sat - Sun 10 AM- 5 PM. San Francisco County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers) 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA. Admission \$3.00. Call 415-665-6079 or visit the website at www.orchidsanfrancisco.org for information and directions.

Upcoming Speakers

TBA

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

San Francisco Orchid Society Conservation Committee

As many of you are aware, the natural world is in crisis mode. Every day forests are being destroyed to make way for more farms, cow pastures, industry, timber plantations, oil plantations, and more cities. This 'progress' is destroying species and their habitats at a frightening rate. There is no more devastating sight than to see magnificent trees lying stacked one on top of each other beside the road, and piles of "brush" containing orchids, bromeliads, ferns and countless other species being burned to make way for a new

pasture, road or subdivision. Moreover, it can take centuries to restore what man destroyed in just a day or two. At this rate, there will be only tiny pockets of preserved habitat left, and even these are threatened by poaching, government instability, and an ever growing human population. A large orchid society, such as the San Francisco Orchid Society, has the opportunity to "make a difference", i.e. to try to help preserve at least some of the orchids, coexisting species of plants and animals, and their habitats before it is too late.

This year the San Francisco Orchid Society donated \$3000 to the Orchid Conservation Alliance, an organization founded to preserve orchid habitat. The board also approved the motion that the proceeds from the Razzle Dazzle Raffle be earmarked for orchid conservation, although the specific recipient(s) of the funds raised has yet to be determined. However, I think we as a society can do more, particularly if there is an interested and motivated group of people who are interested in this objective. Therefore, I announced at the SFOS meeting that we would start the "**San Francisco Orchid Society Conservation Committee**"; this committee would then create a set of goals and guidelines, as well as brainstorm ideas for fund raising and evaluate worthy projects to support. Participation on this committee is open to all members of the SFOS, and I would welcome any of you who are interested in participating in this worthy project.

If you are interested in joining the **San Francisco Orchid Society Conservation Committee**, please let me know. I would like to plan a kick off meeting in July, but if you can't make that meeting, I would still welcome your support and participation. Please help make a difference. Please email me at meg570@comcast.net if you are interested in joining this worthwhile undertaking.

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

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

Featured Show and Tell Plant June Meeting

Porroglossum eduardii



P. eduardii lip down



P. eduardii lip up

Like most *porroglossums*, *Porroglossum eduardii* has a sensitive lip that flips up against the column when a pollinator, probably a fly, lands on it. It stays up for about a half hour, during which the trapped fly is likely to pick up the pollinia. When the lip relaxes, the fly is free to fly away, hopefully to find another flower of *eduardii*. Notice that when the lip is down, a pair of black bumps are revealed that contrast strongly with the scarlet flower. These may help attract the fly to the flower in the first place.

Submitted by Steven Beckendorf

[back to top](#)

Announcements

Procedure For A Guest to Attend the SFOS Board Meeting

All SFOS board meetings are open to all members. The board meets on the Monday following the general meeting of each month-- either in person --at the SF County Fair Building (at 7pm) or via Skype (at 7:30 pm). To participate in a virtual meeting, the member must either have a Skype account or a telephone number, which the moderator will add to the call list. Guests will then be added to the conference call at the time the board meeting commences. Board meetings typically end about 9pm.

To attend one of the virtual board meetings, members should contact the virtual board meeting moderator (usually the President, currently Mary Gerritsen) by email or telephone preferably one week before the board meeting. Currently all board meetings are virtual unless announced by email or in the newsletter. To attend an in-person meeting, advance notice is not required.

HELP WANTED: San Francisco Orchid Society Membership Chair

Do you like to talk to people about orchids? Encourage others to enjoy your hobby? The San Francisco Orchid Society really needs your help! We do not have a membership chair, and this is an important position. What does the job entail? Here are the major responsibilities:

- Attending the SFOS monthly meetings, maintain and update the membership records, and collect dues. Note that membership dues can now be paid on line through the website, and we hope that more of the membership will use this time saving method to renew their membership.
- The membership chair works with the newsletter editor and the website manager to make sure the distribution list for the newsletter and on-line roster is up to date.
- Once a month (the first Monday following the general meeting) the board of directors meets-a virtual meeting via a conference call. The membership chair gives an update on new members that have joined the society at the board meeting. If you can't make a meeting, we understand and can make adjustments.
- At the two shows put on by the SFOS the membership chair organizes volunteers to man the membership tables at those events to recruit new members and tell others about the SFOS.
- At the membership chairs discretion, he/she may prepare brochures, postcards or initiate other events to encourage new people to join the SFOS.

This post has been vacant for several months, and we really need someone to step in and help. Please, support your society, and get involved! Please contact Mary Gerritsen at meg570@comcast.net Thank you!

1% for Orchid Conservation Update 24

1. The OCC first Conservation slide show available for Orchid Society meetings

The slide show touches on issues of habitat loss and orchid conservation in Pennsylvania, USA, Sumatra, Indonesia; restoration at Jardín Botánico las Orquídeas Ecuador;

conservation at EcoMinga Foundation, Ecuador and at GROWISER, Oregon, USA.. The show is narrated and runs automatically on a computer and can be projected onto a screen or to a TV.

For more information and download links:

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/slideshows.html>

The slide show can be download for free. If you want a CD of it you can order it at cost. All information at the above link.

2. The Orchids of Crete and their Conservation Article

The Greek island of Crete is botanically very rich, with a wide variety of habitats and a high level of endemism (approx.9%). However, conservation both of habitats and species has a low priority, especially in the current economic climate. Many orchid-rich meadows, particularly in coastal areas are being destroyed for building purposes, in response to the demand for property by Russian and Middle-Eastern developers.

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pr/flowersofcrete.html>

Flowers of Crete <http://www.flowersofcrete.info/>

Mission Statement:

"To heighten awareness of the endangered native flowers of Crete, with the aim to conserve and protect species and their environment for future generations."

3. New Hampshire Orchid Society starts Conservation Fund

<http://www.nhorchids.org/index.php?page=conservation-grants>

The New Hampshire Orchid Society has begun a formalized conservation initiative with the goals of supporting orchid conservation locally, regionally, and globally.

The New Hampshire Orchid Society Conservation Committee is pleased to announce our grant program. This program is intended to provide funds for creative projects directly involved with and benefiting the broad mission of orchid conservation, which shall be the greatest consideration for funding decisions. This is an opportunity for both individuals and organizations to be specific in requesting funds.

Application Deadline: Ongoing applications are accepted.

4. American Orchid Society Help Save the Myrtle Head Savanna Orchids Campaign

Help Save the Myrtle Head Savanna Orchids Campaign nears its goal

Goal: \$10,040

Appeal Activity Report: 8/1/2011 thru 5/25/2012

Amount Raised: \$8093.00

Supporters: 76 gifts from 56 donors

For more information and to make a contribution:

<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=426>

5. Native Orchid Conservation in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula

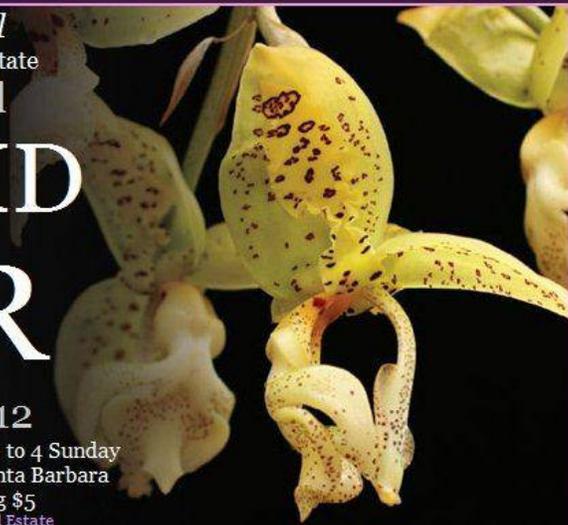
Wisconsin's natural communities provide habitat for approximately 50 native orchid species and over 600 state natural areas where many orchid species are found. I am involved with a small group of native orchid enthusiasts, Friends of Carney Fen, a small group of native orchid enthusiasts, share their methods of orchid conservation including preservation, propagation and restoration of habitat locally and in the nearby Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pr/friendsofcarneyfen.html>

For more information please contact:

Mark Sullivan
Administrator
1% for Orchid Conservation
Orchid Conservation Coalition
<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/>
AOS Conservation Committee Member

Announcements



the 32nd annual
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
International
**ORCHID
FAIR**
July 13-15, 2012
9am to 5pm Friday & Saturday ~ 10 to 4 Sunday
at Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara
Admission is Free ~ Parking \$5
[map to Earl Warren](#) | [map to Orchid Estate](#)

Enjoy the sights, smells, and shopping of 32nd annual "Weekend of orchids from around the world"- outdoors under open-air canopies! Thirty orchid vendors and orchid organizations from the US and five other countries offering blooming to bare-root plants for purchase, plus friendly orchid expertise and tall tales for free. Recurring potting and culture demonstrations from simple repotting and dividing to growing glorious specimen plants by SBOE staff and noted orchidist Lance Birk.

DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY July 13, 2012
To be announced

SATURDAY July 14, 2012
To be announced

SUNDAY July 15, 2012
To be announced



CALIFORNIA
SIERRA
NEVADA
JUDGING
CENTER



Presents
California Sierra Nevada
Speaker's Day

Saturday, August 4, 2012
9AM to 5PM
Odd Fellows Building
1831 Howe Ave. at Alta Arden
Sacramento, CA 95838

Featuring

Roy Tokunaga, H & R Nursery
Simplified Orchid Genetics and Breeding
(How to improve your collection)

Ron McHatton
Operating Officer, Director of Education for AOS
Growing Miniature Orchids in Your Home

Roy Tokunaga, H & R Nursery
Dennis Olivas, D & D Flowers
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
All You Wanted to Know About Cattleyas (panel discussion)

Vendors

Golden Gate Orchids
Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, plus other fantastic plants.

H & R Nursery
A great selections of various type of orchids.

Gold Country Orchids
Mini-cattleyas that bloom 2-3 times a year.

D & D Flowers
Dennis will have whatever the others don't.

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

CSNJC is a 501 c3 organization. Visit our website at: csnjc.org

[back to top](#)

Change of address?

Send all address and e-mail changes to:
Chris Mende

Email: chrismendefoto@aim.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

415-384-0746

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

Like us on Facebook 

[back to top](#)

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to stanford@rkmediasolutions.com by sfosnewsletter@orchidsanfrancisco.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
San Francisco Orchid Society | PO Box 1234 | San Francisco | CA | 94999