



San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter

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Membership

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June 2013 Volume 62 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

Ken Cameron

***Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and
Cultivation***

Ken Cameron, Ph.D.

SFOS Meeting

Tues. June 4, 2013



SF Orchid Society

Tues. June 4, 2013

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

Ken Cameron Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin

Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation

Skill Session

Gary Meyer/Mary Gerritsen
SFOS Survey Results



Ken Cameron received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. He served as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Guilford College for two years before accepting a research position at The New York Botanical Garden, where he was Director of the Molecular Systematics Laboratory for almost ten years. In 2008 he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a Professor of Botany and Director of the Wisconsin State Herbarium, a collection of more than 1.2 million specimens. In addition to being recognized as the first biologist to use DNA sequence data to reconstruct the evolutionary history of the entire orchid family, Ken is considered the world authority on the systematics of the orchid subfamily *Vanilloideae*. His research on *Vanilla* and its relatives was recognized as the most outstanding paper delivered at the 1996 annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and also by the structural section of the Botanical Society of America in the same year. In 2011 Timber Press commissioned him to published *Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation*. His orchid research has been featured within magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times*, as well as on television (HGTV & NOVA) and radio.

Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation

The history of the world's most popular flavor and fragrance spans continents and centuries,

Plant
Opportunity Table
Tom Perlite
Golden gate Orchids

2013-2014 SFOS
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Newsletter Editor

but vanilla's origins may surprise even devoted connoisseurs. This revered and expensive spice, with its rare, complex flavor and perfume, actually comes from the fruit of a highly prized orchid.

From its discovery to its fascinating genetics, pollination, and development, leading orchid expert Ken Cameron covers the natural history, biology, structure, evolution, and diversity of the genus *Vanilla* - especially *Vanilla planifolia*, the primary natural source of vanilla flavor and fragrance - and related orchids. Illustrated with more than 100 color photographs and vanilla artifacts from around the world, this lively exploration includes a complete account of the genus and of its storied allure. Cameron also traces the path of the vanilla bean from harvesting and curing through commercial processing. Detailed profiles of selected species and hybrids include important tips on cultivation. The plants are easily propagated from stem cuttings and can be grown at home for their large glossy leaves and beautiful climbing stems. The intriguing white flowers, however, will elude most home growers, as will the vanilla beans themselves. Under ideal conditions flowers emerge during the night and must be pollinated before noon if they are to develop into vanilla beans. But creating one's own vanilla extract and making vanilla ice cream from Thomas Jefferson's original recipe are within every enthusiast's reach.



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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Corporation

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2013 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 Inserto - flojoinsert@yahoo.com or Claire Zvanski: (415) 341-3085 czvanski@hotmail.com .

2013 Dues Are Now Payable

(\$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

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

**Richard Moles
Renee Ready
Clarissa Dyer
Lauren Garske
Philip Go**

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

Refreshments

U - B

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



Minutes of SFOS Board Meeting

There was no May Board Meeting

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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

June 4, 2013 7:30pm - SFOS General Meeting

***Main Speaker* - Ken Cameron, Ph.D. - University of Wisconsin**

***Subject*: Vanilla Orchids: Natural History and Cultivation**

***Skill Session*- The SFOS Survey Results**

Created and Analyzed by Gary Meyer-Presented by Mary Gerritsen -

President

What do members really think about the SFOS - the monthly meetings, the POE, Orchids in the Park, etc.? Come to the skill session this month to find out and discuss what is most important to you or what you think should change. The survey was created and analyzed by Gary Meyer and the discussion will be led by our president, Mary Gerritsen.

May 31 - June 2 San Jose Orchid Expo

Winchester Mystery House, San Jose Friday Preview Night Gala 5:30 to 9:30pm, Saturday 9am -6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. For more information go to www.realorchidgrowers.com

June 15, 2013 The Orchid Society of Southern California Orchid Auction

221 South 6th Street, First Christian Church, Burbank, CA Free Admission Doors Open at 1 PM

July 12 - 14, 2013 33rd Annual Summer Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House

Friday & Saturday 8AM - 5PM; Sunday 9AM - 4 PM. 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93111 Celebrating the Exotic and Fragrant Beauties of Summer. The large flowered Cattleyas (Laelias) of Brazil, the Stanhopeas and Encyclias of Central and South America, and many other genera. Premier of our fragrant-orchid list.

Frequent potting and mounting demonstrations. And of course, we will have the \$7.50 specials of selected seedlings, bare-roots, and sprouted cymbidium backbulbs. Questions? Call us at (800) 553-3387, or e-mail us at sboe@sborchid.com

August 3, 2013 Palomar Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Auction

At the Pavilion at Lake San Marcos. 11am - 4pm. For more information contact posorchidsall4@gmail.com or see www.palomarorchid.org

Upcoming Speakers

TBD

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



The People of Taiwan Love Orchids and America

By Tom Perlite, Orchid Specialist and owner of Golden Gate Orchids

Recently, I had the good fortune to visit Taiwan on a trip sponsored by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, the same organization that sponsors the SFOS's Pacific Orchid Exposition. The objective was to introduce Taiwan and its many tourist sites to orchid enthusiasts and a select group of media representatives on the trip. We were able to see firsthand how orchids play an integral role in Taiwan's culture and everyday life.

We had a small group from the Bay Area put together by Frances Larose from the Larose Group, the publicity firm for the show. Joining us on the trip was Sidney Erthal, an independent photographer, Monique Soltani, an independent videographer and social media blogger, P. J. Bremier, a writer for the Marin Independent Journal and Marin Magazine, and Eve Wertsch, a travel consultant from Fugazi Travel. It was a wonderful trip where we traveled around the small island country seeing historical, cultural, and natural sites. We experienced beautiful weather, with days in the 70s and nights in the mid 60s. The highlight for me, was

attending the International Taiwan Orchid Show.

The Taiwan Orchid Show is held in Tainan City, the oldest city in Taiwan and located on the Southwest coast. After flying into Taipei, Taiwan's capital in the north, we took a bullet train for the hour and half ride to Tainan. The organizers of the show have regular free shuttle buses from both the bullet train station and also the local train station. This is very important for the show. With an attendance of over 300,000 people for the 10 days of the event, many of those visitors rely on the train to get to the show.



Once we arrived at the show, we were warmly greeted by the show organizers and Dennis Kao, the show Chairman. The show was held at the Taiwan Orchid Plantation, which is a 250 acre complex of greenhouses used both for the show as well as the growing area for plants being exported to the United States and other countries. To say that the show is huge is an understatement. I would guess that the Taiwan show is 4-5 times the size of the Pacific Orchid Exposition, which is one of the largest orchid shows in the U.S.

The entrance to the show brings you into the exhibit hall (converted greenhouses) where commercial firms, visiting countries and orchid societies have large exhibits displaying their specialties. These were strictly for beauty and only the exhibits are judged, not the plants. The highlight of this hall was the 30-40 foot mountain with Phalaenopsis cascading over the rocks, created by Taiwan Sugar Company. Also, spectacular, were the two trees with 5000 cut Oncidium sprays wired to the branches of each one. We attended the show on the 8th day and the cut flowers looked as fresh as the day they were cut. Also in this hall were exhibits displaying orchid fragrance products and technology, dresses on exhibit from the fashion show, and crystal and ceramic products.



The next hall we visited was the individual plant exhibit area, where plants were displayed for judging their individual merit. This is where the grand champion and other award winning plants are shown, selected from 1500 plant entries and judged by almost 200 judges. While Phalaenopsis were the dominant orchid, there was a wonderful selection of other species and hybrids shown. Due to the warm climate of Taiwan, there were very few of the cool growing plants that we take for granted here in the bay area.

The next hall we visited was the commercial sales area where growers from Taiwan and other countries displayed their wares. Some of the booths were vacant as some visiting vendors from overseas had already sold out in the first 7 days. Sales looked to be brisk, and those customers from overseas could obtain CITES documentation to take plants home with them.

The fourth and final hall, called the Dream Hall, displayed the growing process of Phalaenopsis and the technology and inner workings of the greenhouses. We were unable to see this hall since we were scheduled to visit a Ten Drum performance and other sites in Tainan City.

We spent four hours viewing the show, and could have easily spent another four if time allowed. The Taiwan International Show is certainly something every orchid fancier should see. The quality of the exhibits and individual plants for exhibition were some of the best I have ever seen. The show was extremely well organized for such a huge show and everyone we met could not have been nicer. The trip for me was a wonderful experience, and I would highly recommend visiting Taiwan and their fantastic orchid show.

For more pictures of the Taiwan International Orchid Show, go to www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

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Special Events

Presented by Real Orchid Growers

SAN JOSE
ORCHID EXPOSITION
2013



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Join us at the
**WINCHESTER
MYSTERY HOUSE®**

525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose, CA 95128

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY 31	JUNE 1	JUNE 2
5:30PM-9:30PM	9:00AM-6:00PM	10:00AM-5:00PM

PREVIEW NIGHT – FRIDAY

\$10 WINE TASTING Includes Souvenir Wine Glass

\$5.00 ADMISSION SAT & SUN

\$10.00 ADMISSION FRIDAY PREVIEW NIGHT

**BEGINNER ORCHID GROWING SKILL SESSIONS
WORLD CLASS ORCHID GROWERS**

for more information: www.realorchidgrowers.com
find REAL ORCHID GROWERS on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/realorchidgrowers)

Orchid Auction
 Saturday, June 15, 2013

Doors Open 1:00 PM
 Auction Starts 2:00 PM

Meeting Hall
 First Christian Church
 221 South 6th Street
 Burbank, CA




 * Free Admission *
 * Free Door Prize Raffle *
 * Refreshments Provided *
 * Hundreds of Beautiful, Well-Grown Orchids *
 Details at www.orchidssc.org
 Sponsored By The Orchid Society of Southern California

THE PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
 PRESENTS



2013 Orchid Auction



Saturday, August 3, 2013
Preview at 11:00 am
Auction starts at 12 Noon

The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
 1105 La Bonita Drive
 San Marcos, CA 92078

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING
 More info at www.palomarorchid.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 - czvanski@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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