

## San Francisco Orchid Society Newsletter May 2018 - Volume 67 Number 5

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The mission of the SFOS is to foster the culture and conservation 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.

### **Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2017**

**Where:** San Francisco County Fair Building - "Hall of Flowers",  
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA

**Skills Session at 7pm: Chaunie Langland - Water Quality and Watering -**  
Bring a water sample from home and learn hands-on how to use a TDS meter to measure total dissolved solids.

**Speaker: Brandon Tam**

**Topic: Orchids at Huntington Gardens**

**Opportunity Table plants provided by: John Leathers and Bob Hamilton**

### **Two other important announcements:**

1) We will not be in the Auditorium; this meeting will be held in the Rec Room after the Skills Session.

**2) 2018/2019 SFOS Board Elections will take place live at the May 1st meeting.** Thank you to Chris Mende and Alvin Hom , our nominating committee, for assembling the following Slate of candidates for new 2018/2019 SFOS officers and directors - see more details from their biographies at the bottom of the newsletter:

**President: Jeff Harris**  
**Vice President: Erik Sayle**  
**Treasurer/CFO: Faye Rabino**  
**Secretary: Linda Tripp**

**Directors:**  
**Dave Hermeyer**  
**Antonette Queri**  
**Debra Vails-Qualters**  
**Jeremiah Chua**



**Brandon Tam** is passionate about his career as the Orchid Collection Specialist at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Brandon's grandmother first introduced him to orchids when he was seven by giving him a white cymbidium. He volunteered at the Huntington during high school, and when he graduated at age 16, Dr. James Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, offered Brandon a full-time position as the Orchid Collection Specialist. Brandon has managed the collection for the past eight years. While working with Dr. Folsom to reinvigorate the Huntington's orchid collection, Brandon attended California State University Polytechnic, Pomona, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science in 2015.

Brandon now oversees one of the largest orchid collections in the United States, which has grown from 2000 to over 10,000 plants in the past eight years. The Huntington's

orchid collection is housed in over 26,000 square feet of growing area, which includes the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory and three collection greenhouses, dedicated specifically for tropical plants. He also oversees the Huntington's 50 *Amorphophallus titanum*s (better known as the "Corpse flower"), and has successfully bloomed one in 2014.

Brandon is also in charge of the annual Huntington International Orchid Show, which he inaugurated in 2015, and was in charge of hosting the annual meeting of the American Orchid Society at the Huntington in 2016.

Under Brandon's direction, The Huntington has won over 100 awards from the American Orchid Society within the last three years, which includes five First Class Certificates and three Certificates of Cultural Excellence. At the American Orchid Society Fall 2016 Members Meeting, The Huntington received The Merritt W. Huntington Award, which gives international recognition for the "Most Outstanding Orchid" in the year of 2015 for *Paphiopedilum micranthum* 'Huntington's Perfection' FCC/AOS. In 2016, The Huntington received not just one, but two American Orchid Society Special Annual Awards! *Lycaste consobrina* 'Huntington's Finest' AM-CCE/AOS received the Butterworth Award which goes to the grower of the plant exhibiting the finest orchid culture. It also received the Benjamin C. Berliner award which is given to most outstanding example of the genus *Lycaste* or its closely allied genera. At the time of judging, it had a total of 287 flowers and 7 buds.

In Brandon's spare time, he loves to travel, and of course...EAT! He recently joined Harold Koopowitz and others on a trek in Ecuador led by Pepe Portilla, where the group saw many wild orchids and focused on the study of *Selenipedium aequinoctiale*. Additionally, Brandon was elected as Trustee of the American Orchid Society, for a three-year term, which started March 2018. At age 25, he currently serves as the youngest Trustee in AOS history.

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**American Orchid Society Judging:** begins at 7:00pm  
(Enter plants for AOS Judging between 6:30 and 7:00 pm)

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

Please bring your blooming 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.

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.

*When you bring a plant to show and tell, fill out the identification tag with your name and you can get one entry into a special raffle for a chance to pick up an early selection from the plant opportunity table.*

*We look forward to seeing you and your plants at the next monthly meeting*

### **Wear Your Name Badge:**

When you pick up your name tag from the membership table at our meetings you will get a special raffle ticket for a chance to pick up an early selection from the plant opportunity table.

### **Refreshments:**

SFOS members are expected to help out with refreshments, setup and cleanup at monthly meetings based upon the first letter of your last name.

***Check the calendar below for the monthly meeting corresponding to your last name.***

***Members whose last name starts with the letter range G - H should bring snacks to the meeting on May 1, 2018.***

Please bring snacks such as nuts, fruit or veggie sticks, crackers & cheese for the next meeting.

A few jars/cans of nuts, a pound or two of fruit (dried or fresh) or cheeses, a few dozen cookies, or box or two of crackers is an appropriate amount.

Please consider bringing "healthier" ("lower carbohydrate") snacks if you are bringing crackers, cookies or other baked goods.

And ask the folks at the opportunity table for your extra raffle ticket when you bring food to a meeting!

### **2018 Refreshment Calendar:**

Jan: V - Z

Feb: A - B

Mar: C - D

Apr: E - F

**May: G - H**

Jun: I - K

Jul: L - M

Aug: N - P

Sep: Q - R

Oct: S - T

Nov: U - Z

Dec Potluck: Everyone

### **Dinner with the Speaker:**

If you want to join the speaker for dinner at 5:30pm before the meeting,

***please RSVP*** with Jeff Harris ([jharrisofsf@gmail.com](mailto:jharrisofsf@gmail.com); cell: 650-303-6205) ***by no later than noon on the day of the meeting (May 1)*** to confirm the location and that there is room.

### **Future Speakers:**

**June 2018: *Fred Clarke - Australian Dendrobiums***

**July 2018: *You be the judge - AOS judging workshop***

**Aug 2018: *Sharman O'Neill - Vanilla!***

**Sept 2018: *Norman Fang - Development of the Harlequin Phalaneopsis***

**Oct 2018: *Kay Klausling - Orchid viruses***

**Nov 2018: *Harold Koopowitz – Breeding The New Miniature Slipper Orchids***

**Dec 2018: *Holiday Party***

**Jan 2019: *TBA***

**Feb 2019: *Stig Dalstrom - Paphiopedilums of Bhutan***

**Mar 2019: *Santiago Ramirez - Orchids and Bees***

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### **Message from the President:**

As my term will be coming to an end in May, this is my last message as the SFOS President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the help and support you have provided me over the past year. We've faced some challenges, and it's been very uplifting to hear words of encouragement from many of you. The past year has been fun and exciting for me, I've learned a lot and met several interesting new people.

I would also like to thank my fellow officers and board members for their service and dedication over the past year - Jeff Harris, Mary Gerritsen, Eric Sayle, Alvin Hom, Jason Douglass, Antonette Queri, Dave Hermeyer, Valerie Mountain, Claire Zvansky, and Florence Inserto. I would also like to thank Angelic Nguyen for leading Orchids in the Park last July.

I'm happy to report that both of our shows this past year were financially successful and helped strengthen our bank balances. We started modernizing the society with our launch of MemberPlanet which will not only help us maintain accurate membership records, but also helps with the monthly newsletter and other communications. We resolved outstanding issues with the California Attorney General regarding our non-profit status. We implemented new financial controls to prevent future financial losses. These are just a few of the accomplishments we've made over the past year, thanks to the hard work of many people. Everyone's efforts are very much appreciated!

Looking forward, I'm pleased to see such a strong slate of officers and board members up for election in May. Please give them all the help and support you have shown me over the past year.

Ron Norris

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**July 21-22, 2018 - *Save the Date & Spread the Word...***  
**SFOS Orchids in the Park Show & Sale**  
**San Francisco County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers)**  
**9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA**

**More details to follow soon...**

**Contact Angelic Nguyen ([angelic@orchidesign.com](mailto:angelic@orchidesign.com)), Ron Norris or Jeff Harris for questions**

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### **SFOS Board Meeting Minutes - April 9, 2018**

Present: Mary Gerritsen, Ron Norris, Erik Sayle, Jeff Harris, Jason Douglass, Alvin Hom, Antonnette Queri, Valerie Mountain, Claire Zvanski

Not Attending: Dave Hermeyer

#### **1. President's Updates**

- a. Nomination Committee: Alvin Hom, Chris Mende and Jeff Harris all helped find new officers and board members and we have some great new volunteers. The proposed slate will be published in the May newsletter. The board discussed the treasurer role as its a crucial position with financial responsibilities.
- b. Transition to New Board: This is last meeting of the current board, the next meeting in May will be a combined of new board members and the old board members. The board agreed to meet in person in May to welcome the new board and do a proper hand off. Jeff agreed to host, and will work on setting a date.

#### **2. CFO Updates**

- a. Financial Report Review: The board reviewed the recent financial statements and everything looked good. Our accountant, Kim Arden was out of town so these financial statements should be considered provisional until Kim looks at them. The board discussed who has signing authority on the bank accounts, and the plans for change to the new officers. Deposits can currently only be made via the treasurer and Maureen Clarke (primarily since she often has proceeds from plant opportunity table from the end of each meeting).
- b. Our tax filings are due May 15. Mary took all the documents to our CPA to prepare the forms. Once they are ready the board needs to review them ASAP so we can send them off by the due date.
- c. We need to re-file our business license - Mary is currently working on finding the PIN number to do the filing.
- d. The old records from 2013-2015 need to be migrated to DataSafe for storage.
- e. Fraud case update: Nothing new.

#### **3. Vice President's Updates**

a. Programming - no updates

b. Member engagement effort - Jeff has been reaching out to across the membership - particularly to new members - to find out what motivated them to join SFOS, and to get them more directly involved.

c. Newsletter editor - Angelique Fry will be transitioning on as the new newsletter editor.

#### 4. **POE Update**

a. Survey Results: We have 150 responses so far, thanks for giving us feedback! The survey will remain open until the end of April. It seems that the membership tends to favor the County Fair Building and the public would prefer a larger venue. Many folks like Fort Mason but most also realize the reality of the situation with costs etc.

#### 5. **OITP Update**

a. OITP Chair – Angelic Nguyen has agreed to be the chair. She will focus on advertising and vendors, and Ron will help with organizing the committee. Ellen has agreed to be the recycling guru.

b. Admission Price/Online tickets: Angelic would like to get online ticket sales up by May 1. The board discussed the cost of admission and recommended a flat \$5 for everybody. Children under 16 would remain free.

c. Booth Fees will stay the same as previous years.

d. Advertising budget: Angelic is considering an increase in the advertising budget. Ron asked her to submit the amount she would like to be considered.

#### 6. **Old Business**

a. Storage space – Currently we pay \$414 per month for our storage locker in Colma. Erik has identified an alternative that is less. He will send out the information to the board, and the next step would be a site visit. The aim would be to plan the transition to coincide with OITP

#### 7. **New Business**

a. Wine Glasses in Storage: We currently have 100's of wine glasses from previous years in storage. They take up space and are getting dusty and need cleaning before use, so we need to distribute them in some way. The old ones are crystal and are valued at about \$8.00 each (but cost us nothing as a sponsor paid for them) and new ones are under \$3.00 each. Jeff made a motion to try to advertise in the newsletter for anyone who might want them, and otherwise work thru the inventory at events or shows to dispose of them.. Mary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Digital Storage: We currently use Yahoo groups for both threaded discussions as well as institutional storage for documents. Its been noted that the storage component is getting a little slow so it was brought up to see if there is a better way to store documents besides Yahoo Groups. There is also a concern that Yahoo seems to be in decline as an organization so perhaps they are not supporting their systems as well. Our Member Planet subscription includes a service called "Box" for document storage so Jeff will look into that option. Other storage options discussed included Google Drive, Dropbox and Evernote.

c. Job Description Review: As we transition to the new board, this is a great time to update job specs. Each outgoing officer should make sure their job description is accurate. They are all in Yahoo groups.

d. Bay Area Orchid Book: Mary proposed to see if Barnes and Noble stores will carry the local orchid cultivation book. She will fill out a form to apply to have them physically carried in local stores. Mary made a motion to pursue distributing the books at Barnes and Noble, Alvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### 8. **Meeting Closure**

a. Action items were reviewed.

b. Motion to adjourn at 8:38PM

Submitted by Erik Sayle - SFOS Secretary

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**Welcome to our New Members!**

**Will Beecher**

**A'na and Paul Sa'tara**

**Membership Information:**

We have a new online process now for membership dues payments and annual member information updates - even if you are a Lifetime Member, we would like you to sign up to "join" our SFOS MemberPlanet site and use this new online process.

**JOIN NOW**

***If you want help with this new online process we can assist you at membership desk.***

If you cannot use the online process, then please go ahead and mail a check with your contact information to:

SFOS Membership, PO Box 27145, SF, CA 94127-0145

**Annual Dues**

\$25: Standard Membership (includes email newsletters)

\$40: Household membership (2 or more people, includes email newsletters)

\$75: Supporting Membership (includes one 2018 POE Gala OR weekend pass plus email newsletters)

\$150: SFOS Patron Membership (includes four 2018 POE Gala OR weekend passes, email newsletters, one signed copy of A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and their Culture)

\$500: SFOS Benefactor Membership (includes four 2018 POE Gala OR weekend passes, and mention in one of the newsletters and the Pacific Orchid Exposition program, email newsletters, one signed copy of A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and their Culture)

\$1,000: SFOS Orchid Circle (includes four 2018 POE Gala OR weekend passes, your name included in one of the newsletters and the Pacific Orchid Exposition program, email newsletters, one signed copy of A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and their Culture)  
Plus, a one-time donation of one third of the amount to the Orchid Conservation Alliance towards purchase of orchid preserve land)

Thank you for considering a donation to SFOS - every bit helps!

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This **Bulletin Board** is a free service for SFOS members' orchid-related items.

Send items by the 15th of the month by email to: [jharrisofsf@gmail.com](mailto:jharrisofsf@gmail.com)

**American Orchid Society Awards**

Check the websites for the most recent awards:

AOS Pacific Judging Center website: [www.paccentraljc.org](http://www.paccentraljc.org)

AOS Awards from the Central Valley of California and Northern Nevada:

[www.csnjc.org](http://www.csnjc.org)

Have you joined AOS?

As an American Orchid Society member, you have considerably more resources at their disposal to make growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful, including Digital Access To Over 350+ past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932! For example, to view content from the most recent issue of Orchids magazine -

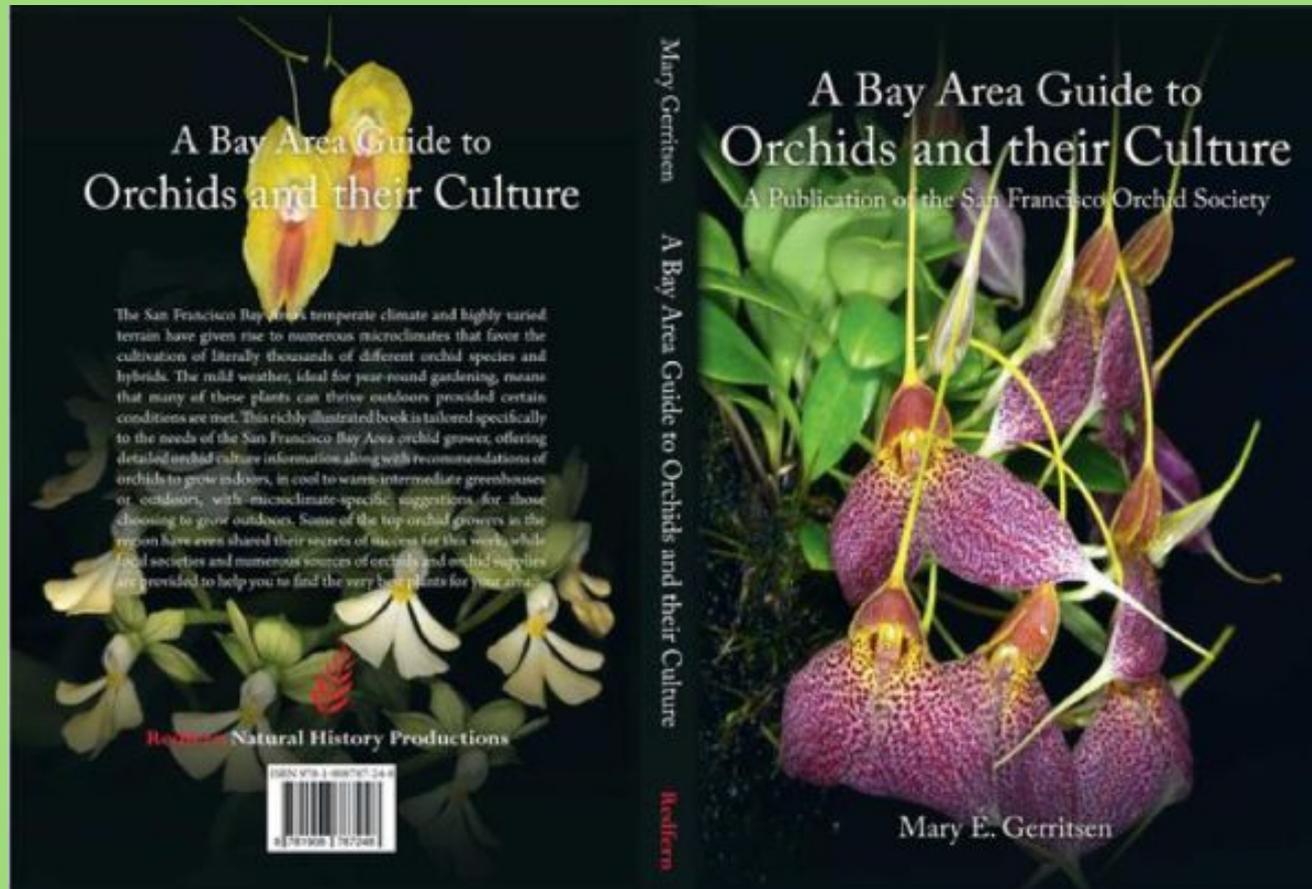
Click here: [www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx](http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx)

Check out the upcoming AOS Webinars

[www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx)

Get your copy of The Bay Area Guide to Orchids and Their Culture, featuring many of the members of the San Francisco Orchid Society and our neighboring orchid societies. Cost is \$21.69 (\$19.99 plus sales tax (\$1.74))

Contact Mary Gerritsen for purchasing arrangements: [meg570@comcast.net](mailto:meg570@comcast.net)



*1% for Orchid Conservation*

*The San Francisco Orchid Society joins other orchid societies and businesses participating in in the 1% FOC campaign by committing to budget 1% or more of our net revenue towards in situ orchid conservation projects. For more information see:*

[www.orchidconservationcoalition.org](http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org)



### **Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA)**

*Orchids in the Wild© trips for 2018:* In 2018 OCA will have trips to Northwest Yunnan, China (May-June), and to Colombia (November). There may still be space on the Yunnan and Colombia trips. The Yunnan trip targets Chinese Cypripediums and the Colombian trip will focus on the spectacular orchids of the northern Andes, several nurseries, and a visit to a new OCA sponsored reserve. Reservations are being accepted now; a \$500 deposit, payable to OCA holds your space on any of these trips.

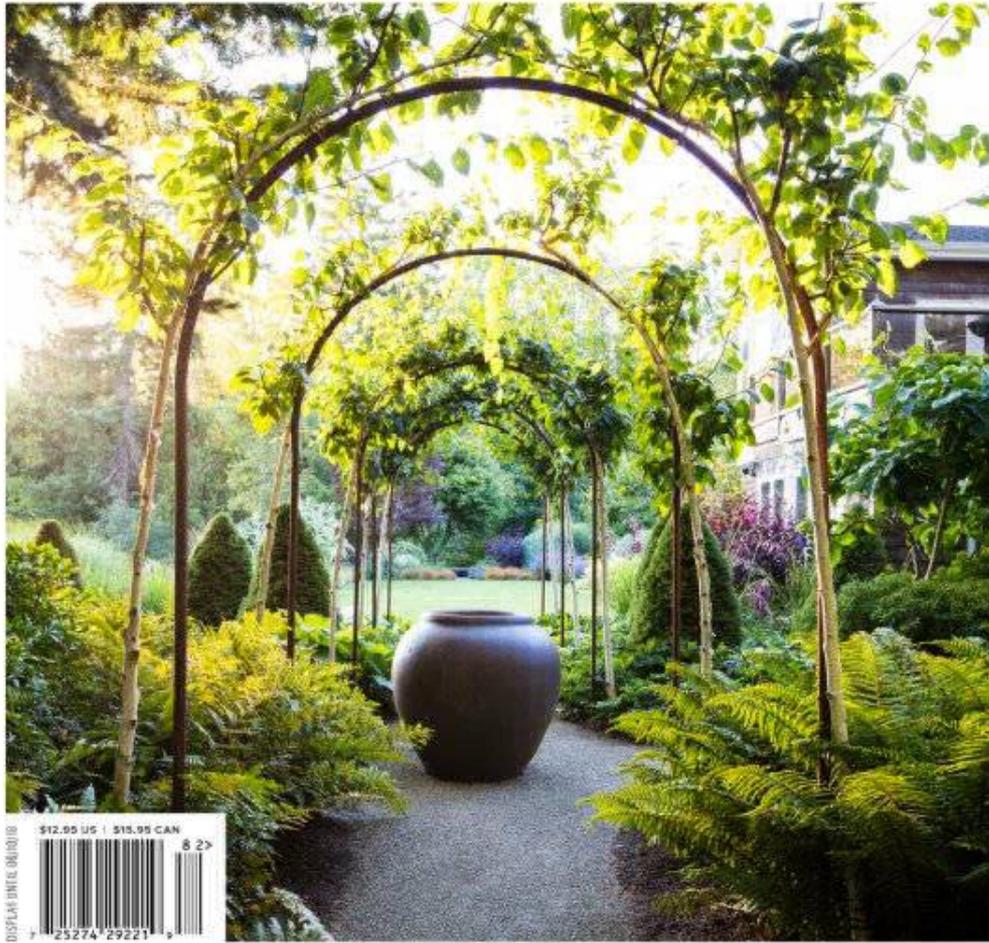
### **Amazon Smile Donations to OCA**

*Any purchases you make on Amazon through Amazon Smile yields a 0.5% donation to the OCA. Just go to: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and follow the links to have your purchases credit the OCA. There is no extra cost to you. Make sure you designate OCA.*

*For more information, see the OCA website: [www.orchidconservationalliance.org](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org)*

SPRING 2018

# GARDEN DESIGN



## WAYS TO ADD BEAUTY & WONDER

*Create spaces for refuge and rejuvenation. Attract butterflies. Grow fabulous food. Design with a painter's palette of rhododendrons. Plant fanciful passionflowers.*

24 | PERFECTLY MODERN POTS

88 | THE JOY OF KITCHEN GARDENING

124 | SIMPLE STEPS TO A GORGEOUS GARDEN

## ***Garden Design* magazine**

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***when you subscribe with this link: [www.gardendesign.com/sfos](http://www.gardendesign.com/sfos)***

If you have not seen *Garden Design* magazine yet, *check it out [online](#)*.

There are no ads - Just 148 pages of beautiful gardens and plants.

Each magazine is coffee table worthy - filled with large, bold photography and great stories.

There is also a free weekly newsletter that goes out each Thursday.

***Any interest or need for some wine glasses*** - we have many cases of previous POE wine glasses available just sitting in our storage locker, and looking for a new home. If interested please contact Jeff Harris ([jharrisofs@gmail.com](mailto:jharrisofs@gmail.com)).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

**April 21-22, 2018**

### **Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show & Sale**

1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061

Set-Up and Plant entry Friday 10AM – 6PM; CSA and AOS judging at 7PM.

Show and Sale open to the public Saturday and Sunday 10AM to 4PM.

For more information contact: Sylvia Darr, Show Chair - [syldarr@gmail.com](mailto:syldarr@gmail.com)

**May 4-5, 2018**

### **San Francisco Botanical Garden's Annual Plant Sale**

SF County Fair Building Auditorium

1199 9th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94122-2370

Mark your calendar - with more than 2,500 types of plants available over two days, it's a great chance to indulge your passion for plants. More info at:

[www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/annual-plant-sale.html](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/annual-plant-sale.html)

Volunteers are wanted to help prepare and staff the sale.

Email: [volunteer@sfbg.org](mailto:volunteer@sfbg.org) if you'd like to help out!

**May 4th-6, 2018**

### **Gold Country Orchid's Spring Open House**

390 Big Ben Road, Lincoln, Ca 95648

916-645-8600

[www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com)

Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Sunday: 10am - 4pm

**Huge Discounts on all plants!** *Plus* an additional 30% off purchases of \$100.00

or more! *Super Sale on L. anceps & C. walkariana*

### **Classes:**

**11:30 Saturday:** *Getting the Most Out of your Paphiopedilums by Paph Paradise*

**12:30 Sunday:** *How to Get Better Blooms*

**Paph Paradise** will have a wide selection of slipper orchids for sale. New hybrids and species from their awarded breeding lines.

[www.paphparadise.com](http://www.paphparadise.com)

**May 12, 2018**

### **Greenhouse and Garden Moving Sale**

Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

21050 Canyon Oak Way, Cupertino, CA

### ***We are selling everything!***

Over 200 orchids- hybrids and species, many specimen sized and almost all blooming size. We've been growing many of these for more than 15 years and they are reliable bloomers in Cupertino. A few succulents and other plants for sale too. Clay pots, cork mounts and other supplies available. Garden tools must go as well. Cash or credit.

Email for a list and photos of many of the blooms:

[menakermitchell@comcast.net](mailto:menakermitchell@comcast.net)

**May 12-13, 2018**

### **Orchid Society of California**

### **Mothers' Day Weekend Orchid Show & Sale Lakeside Park**

Garden Center Nursery

666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA

**Free Admission!** [www.OrchidSocietyOfCA.org](http://www.OrchidSocietyOfCA.org)

**May 18, 2018**

**Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers - Last Meeting for the Season**

Friday, 5:30 PM

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA.

[www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com](http://www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com)

**June 9, 2018**

**16th Orchid Digest Speakers Day**

**'Orchids in the Wild'**

Noon - 8:00 pm

Ahmanson Classroom, Botanical Building

Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

San Marino, CA

<http://www.orchiddigest.com/speaker-day.html>

**July 10 - 13, 2018**

**City College of San Francisco Ocean Campus**

**50 Phelan Ave. San Francisco, CA**

City College is offering an Orchid Class this summer. It is a 3 day class from 10am - 2:30pm taught by Steven Brown, the director of the Floristry and Environmental Horticulture Department. Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids may also assist in the class.

<https://www.ccsf.edu/Schedule/Summer>

**July 13 - 15, 2018**

**Cal-Orchid's Summer Hummer Open House  
& Neofinitia Orchid Judging event**

Fri - Sun 9 AM - 5 PM

1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA.

Saturday will have an informal orchid judging based on the Japanese style For more info:

<http://www.calorchid.com>

**July 13-15, 2018**

**Santa Barbara Orchid Estates Summer Open House**

[www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)

**July 21-22, 2018 - Save the Date & Spread the Word... SFOS Orchids in the**

**Park Show & Sale** San Francisco County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers) 9th

Avenue & Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA

More details to follow soon...

**July 26-30, 2018**

**2018 Native Orchid Conference** Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) near Annapolis, Maryland. The conference will start Thursday evening July 26 with a Social Reception at SERC. Friday, July 27 and Sunday, July 29 will be Speaker Presentations at SERC. Saturday, July 28 and Monday, July 30 will be Field Trips to observe native orchids.

For more info contact: [ncorchid@Yahoo.com](mailto:ncorchid@Yahoo.com) or (336) 996-2324



## Want to know more about the 2018/2019 SFOS Board candidates?

For the existing board members/officers (Jeff, Erik, Dave and Antonnette), see the current web page listing:

[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/san-francisco-orchid-society-sfos-membership/sfos-board-member-bios/](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/san-francisco-orchid-society-sfos-membership/sfos-board-member-bios/)

### **Faye Rabino**

*Having lived in a country where farming is the main livelihood, plants were always a part of my life growing up. Our house was surrounded with fruit trees, veggies and flowering ornamentals. I always admired the white flowered orchid which we in the Philippines generically call a Butterfly Orchid (as the flower looks like a butterfly). My love of orchids got deeper when I was in college. My late brother brought home one day different wild native orchids, species from the mountains where he was working at that time. He collected each kind and brought home around 10 of them. We tried to mimic the slow running water through the roots by placing a used dextrose bottle and tiny hose. We cleaned the used bottle and filled it up with water and suspended it on the tree above the orchids so the water will slowly drip through the branches of the tree where the orchids were tied and the roots get continuously wet. They did survive for a while and I was loving their unique forms, leaves & roots, but there was nobody left at home when everyone went to school and work. They eventually died as the lowland is warm and even with the humid the air, they easily got dried out. Around 1984 while I was rearing my first born, I began to collect orchids again.*

*I had many Vandas and Cattleyas, and some Phaleanopsis and Dendrobium species, but I can't remember the names. All were tied around dried tree trunks - about 30 of them with 3 or 4 orchids in each. I was fascinated by the healthy roots every watering time. The root tips are really glossy green when actively growing, and the waxy leaves are beautiful too. The flowers for me were just a huge bonus then and to show off. Now I have learned that the flower also serves as one of the the best ways to identify what they really are – whether genus, family, or species.*

*I left all of those healthy orchids when I moved to San Francisco in 1995, but as soon as I settled in, I bought my first set of orchids here again - a set of 4 Phals and a "bellina" is one of them. I was able to rebloom the bellina twice until its roots were all eaten by slugs and eventually died. I learned to identify some of the orchids by going to orchid shows and attending the orchid classes and demonstrations during these shows and meetings. I haven't stopped acquiring orchids since and to date I have close to 300 orchids. Cold growers are kept outside in the backyard, and tropical warm loving orchids are growing inside.*

*I love all of them, though the orchids that I really like best are Paphs, Phrags, Masdas and Draculas. I am wishing for a Cypripedium soon too; their flowers for me are so unique and I am amazed by them all the time. I have a small greenhouse for my orchids and hoping to put all of them all together soon. I'd love to have more plants, but space is getting overcrowded already.*

*Volunteering at every orchid event is another way for me to enjoy their beauty and to learn even more about them, and the SFOS monthly meetings are also really educational for orchid lovers like me to learn even more.*



### **Linda Tripp**

*After graduating from UCLA, I trained in NYC for specialized retailing and merchandising, and returned to So. CA where I worked as a buyer for a large department store. Needing relief from the business day, I found joy and peace in my roses and ornamentals in a precious garden where I spent long hours. My "green thumb" has been a constant joy, out or inside - wherever I've lived since.*

*Having an interior design business for 30 years, I utilized real plant material, alive or dried. For over 20 years I lived, off and on, in Puerto Vallarta, where I established a Mexican corporation with 3 businesses. I worked long, latin hours, while enjoying the weather, flora and fauna, and various aspects of a semi-tropical life. A roof garden filled with potted plants, led me to nurseries where I bought my first native orchid, brought down from the mountains.*

*When at home in Tiburon, at a Sloat workshop on orchids I was prompted to "find an orchid society to join". In 2002 my first meeting was Ron Parson's Dendrobium talk. I was totally smitten with the variety of orchids, his vast, as well as joyous, knowledge and found myself immersed in this passion.*

*Growing in my apartment that has great light and air circulation, as well as a south-facing deck close to the Bay, has led me through many "favorites", often fragrant. When I needed to be back in Santa Barbara on business, I started boarding my "babes;" this allows me to enjoy a few special species I couldn't grow without a greenhouse. I now specialize in Masdevallias grown out on my deck and have a mixed variety, mostly species, inside.*

*While belonging to 7 different societies, I've contributed to most. I created the Razzle Dazzle Raffle for OITP at a SFOS Strategic Planning meeting as a way of having all the Bay Area societies participate, even if people couldn't get to the GGP. After being on the POE Committee for a few years, I was POE Show Treasurer in 2014. Most months I go to SFOS, MOS and POS meetings with orchids to be shown, as well as sold and bought!*



**Debra Vails-Qualters, RN, PNP, MSN**

*Born and raised in Harlem, Debra Vails-Qualters migrated to California in 1970 to achieve her dream of becoming a registered nurse. In 1975, Debra graduated from the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate. In 1984, she returned to the University of California School of Nursing to earn a Master's Degree in Community Health Nursing Administration.*

*Following graduation, Ms. Vails-Qualters held numerous clinical and leadership positions. In 1985-86, Debra was an Associate Clinical Instructor in the School of Nursing where she provided off-site instruction to graduate students, focusing on the integration of theory and community health nursing practice. In addition, she worked as a PNP and clinical nurse leader in Bay Area hospitals. After a long stint in the ambulatory care and outpatient arenas, Debra returned to UCSF to earn a Post-Master's Degree as an Advanced Practice Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in 1997. During Ms. Vails-Qualters' long career, she is proud to announce that she was awarded Caregiver of the Year, Alameda County Medical Center, 2003. In 2006, she was inducted in the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Alpha Eta Chapter and from 2004-2008; 2010-2011 Debra served two terms as President of the UCSF School of Nursing Alumni Association. In 1997 through 2003, Ms. Vails-Qualters was promoted from a Clinical Nurse III position to Obstetrical Services Program Administrator at Highland Hospital. She was responsible for marketing and outreach to specifically increase client volume.*

*Since retiring in 2009, Debra enjoys many hobbies and activities, including bicycling and camping with her husband (of 36 years), growing orchids and making quilts. Most important, she loves being a sports grandmother and taxi for 13 grandchildren (7 in the Bay Area).*

*Debra's interest in the SFOS began about 3 years ago while attending and volunteering at the POE at Fort Mason. From there she caught the orchid bug and loves tending orchids, often referred to now as her "pets."*



### **Jeremiah Chua**

*Jeremiah Chua is a content marketer and social media specialist for GetFeedback, a Salesforce partner that creates beautifully branded surveys. As a content marketer, Jeremiah creates blog posts and uses resource articles to inspire people and generate interest in software products. As a social media specialist, he actively engages with a client's online community through conversation and "think pieces."*

*Jeremiah studied Marine Biology for a period in college in pursuit of making an impact on protecting the earth's environments. However, he pursued a Marketing degree to be better able to communicate to the masses about the importance of environmental protection. There is sufficient evidence as to why the environment needs to be protected, but what drives Jeremiah is how to best relay this to the general public. As a child, Jeremiah has always been fascinated by nature. His youth was mostly spent in his parents' backyard catching critters and tending plants.*

*His love for nature persisted throughout his life, with plants being the main focus.*

*As a San Franciscan urban horticulturist, he tends to mostly miniature orchids and bromeliads, specializing in Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata, small Dendrobiums, Asian Cymbidiums and Tillandsias. However, he is always expanding his indoor garden - so no plant is off-limits to his interests.*

*As a member of the SFOS, Jeremiah hopes to bring in a more diverse group of people who can better share and inspire each other with their knowledge in growing orchids.*

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## Current SFOS Officers and Other Contacts:

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**Vice President:** Jeff Harris ([jharrisofsf@gmail.com](mailto:jharrisofsf@gmail.com))  
**Secretary:** Erik Sayle ([e10@axiomresources.com](mailto:e10@axiomresources.com))  
**Treasurer (CFO):** Mary Gerritsen ([meg570@comcast.net](mailto:meg570@comcast.net))

### Directors:

Jason Douglass ([jtheosf1@yahoo.com](mailto:jtheosf1@yahoo.com))  
Antonette Queri ([marqueri@yahoo.com](mailto:marqueri@yahoo.com))  
Alvin Hom ([alvinhomsf@gmail.com](mailto:alvinhomsf@gmail.com))  
Valerie Mountain ([valeriemountain@yahoo.com](mailto:valeriemountain@yahoo.com))

**Past President:** Dave Hermeyer ([dave@hermeyer.us](mailto:dave@hermeyer.us))

### Membership Co-Chairs:

Florence Inserto ([flojo1337@yahoo.com](mailto:flojo1337@yahoo.com))  
Claire Zvanski ([czvanski@hotmail.com](mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com))

**Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Harris ([jharrisofsf@gmail.com](mailto:jharrisofsf@gmail.com))(cell: 650-303-6205)

**AOS Representative:** Japheth Ko ([japhethko@gmail.com](mailto:japhethko@gmail.com))

**Orchid Digest Representative:** Jean Lee ([jeanleorchids@gmail.com](mailto:jeanleorchids@gmail.com))

**Raffle Tickets:** Maureen Clarke and Ellen Edelson

**Librarian:** Chuck Chan ([guolanusa@gmail.com](mailto:guolanusa@gmail.com))

**OITP Show Chair:** Angelic Nguyen ([angelic@orchidesign.com](mailto:angelic@orchidesign.com))

**POE Chair:** Ron Norris

**Webmaster:** Orysia Riesen

**Website:** [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/SFOrchidSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SFOrchidSociety)

**General Inquiries:** [info@orchidsanfrancisco.org](mailto:info@orchidsanfrancisco.org)



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