



Lyc. Abou Rits 4N x Lyc. Abou Rits 2N

# SCOS

## February 2nd Meeting

Our speaker this month is Ron Parsons. Ron will be speaking on "Spring Orchids and Other Flowers of Mallorca, Spain".

See Ron's Bio and more detailed info on the talk on page 2.

### Dinner with the Speaker:

Dinner will be at Sabieng Tai Cuisine, 1218 Mission St., Santa Cruz at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. If possible, email Vicky Smith at [orchids@cruzio.com](mailto:orchids@cruzio.com) by Thursday, February 1, if you are interested in attending or just show

**Refreshments for this month to be provided by:** David Kurtz, Mike and Babette Scott, Kathy and Terry Whettam, Bridget Binko. Thank you!

## 2018 Membership Dues

Time to think about renewing memberships or joining the society for 2018. A membership form can be found on page 7. Bring it to the meeting or mail it in. Details are on the form.

## 2018 Show and Sale

The Show and Sale has been postponed until dates and a venue can be aligned.

## Board Members

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## About Our Speaker



Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 40 years and has been interested in and has grown species for most of that time. Ron loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, whether it be in trips to see them in nature or in collections. Ron has nearly 60,000 digital images, most of which are orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has over 3000 published photos that have appeared in magazines, periodicals, journals and books. Ron has co-authored three botanical books, all with Mary Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias*, *Gems of the Orchid World*; *Calochortus*, *Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. Most recently the third book, a large, luxurious 2-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by RedFern Natural History Productions. The latter has nearly 1200 pages, 1800 photographs and features more than 500 species.

In the spring of 2013 I traveled with my co-author Mary Gerritsen to the Balearic island of Mallorca, Spain to meet up with my German friends to see the beautiful orchids and other wildflowers there. They have been there many times, and told us it is often considered by Germans the 17th state of their country! The native orchids were often plentiful, with many different species of Bee and Tongue orchids often forming large colonies. There were other beautiful flowers there, including the rarest of Peony species, the endemic *Paeonia cambessedessii*, and the scenery was reminiscent of a tropical island. It is an amazing destination in itself, but made even more spectacular by the flowers.

Below are examples of orchids from Spain.



Pyramid Orchid  
*Anacamptis pyramidalis*



Sawfly Orchid *Ophrys*  
*tenthredinifera*

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## Upcoming Events

**February 2, 2018:** SCOS General Meeting. *"Spring Orchids and Other Flowers of Mallorca, Spain"* by Ron Parsons.

**February 22 - 25:** San Francisco Orchid Society's 66th Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE) "Curiouser and Curiouser – Orchids in Wonderland" Thurs Feb 22nd @ 6pm: Gala Preview Night "Mad Hatter" Party Fri-Sun Feb 23rd-25th: General Show and Sale. Location: Hall of Flowers (County Fair Building) in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. More information and advance tickets sales to come; stay tuned! <http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>

**March 2:** SCOS General Meeting. Patricia Rain, the Vanilla Queen will be our speaker.

**March 9-11:** 73rd Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Hours: Open 9am – 5pm each day...Earl Warren Show Grounds: Highway 101 and Las Positas Road. Contact information: <https://sborchidshow.com/> e-mail: <mailto:sborchidshow@gmail.com>. P.O. Box 62154, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

**April 14-15:** Sacramento Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show and Exotic Plant Sale "The World Of Orchids". Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento.

**April 22-23:** Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show & Sale. 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City, CA. 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 information contact Sylvia Darr, Show Chair <mailto:syldarr@gmail.com>

## AOS corner

Visit this link to view prerecorded webinars available to everyone (including nonmembers) at <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

## Orchid Education (reprinted by permission from the AOS)

# January: The Annual Review

By Thomas Mirenda

MOST OF US who are still in the workforce have to endure the dreaded annual review by our supervisors. This yearly assessment of our strengths and weaknesses on the job is often postponed by stalling with equally important but preferable activities such as jury duty or a colonoscopy. I once asked my boss (who loves me) if I could stick needles in my eyes instead of having the review! Even so, reviews are useful to set us on the right path for the future and are a chance to correct course for things that may have gone wrong in the previous year.

This is also true for our orchid collections. While plants don't seem to mind being judged or criticized (ironically, some of my least desirable orchids are often the ones that grow the best), annual assessments are useful for us growers to determine if we're doing all we should for our collections. It's also a chance to decide which plants you want to keep and which go to the raffle table. How else can you make room for all the new orchids you know you're going to want in 2015!

**WINTER DOLDRUMS** As beautiful as a crystalline, icy and snowy landscape can be, with winter enveloping most of the Northern Hemisphere, we experience shorter bleaker days and longer cooler nights. The absence of sun in our lives can sometimes lead to depression. Earlier in the fall, small subtle shifts in photoperiod triggered spiking in so many orchids, particularly phalaenopsis and cymbidiums. Day lengths reached their minimum last month at the winter solstice, so this month, gradually longer photoperiods begin to occur. Sometimes this will cause some beginnings of new growth. Don't overreact to this action by overwatering and repotting just yet. It is very possible to hurt plants by drenching with water and fertilizer right now. Most orchids, particularly dendrobiums, lyncastes and cattleyas, require drier conditions while days are short and the sun lurks low on the horizon veiled by storm clouds, so water with caution.

**GET MOVING** Dry conditions tend to prevail when the heaters are on in the greenhouse or radiators are blasting under your windowsills. Keep in mind that the majority of the tropical orchids we grow thrive in humid, circulating air like they'd experience in their montane, treetop perches. Dry heat will cause many



*Phalaenopsis* Peoker Beauty 'Bredren', JC/AOS (Salu Peoker x Diamond Beauty) was exhibited by Bredren Orchids in January at the 2014 Tamiami International Orchid Show in Miami, FL. Photograph by Greg Allikas

orchid ills such as root tip burn, and leaf and pseudobulb desiccation. In addition, when excessively dry air is present, your potting mix can get so parched (without regular watering) that it can be nearly impossible to rewet come the growing season. This can also do some serious damage to plants. A happy medium must be striven for. Supplying humid air and blowing it gently through your growing area with fans will create an environment much better suited to orchid culture.

**I SEE YOUR BLOOMERS** It may be bleak outside; nonetheless, January is simply glorious inside the greenhouse. A multitude

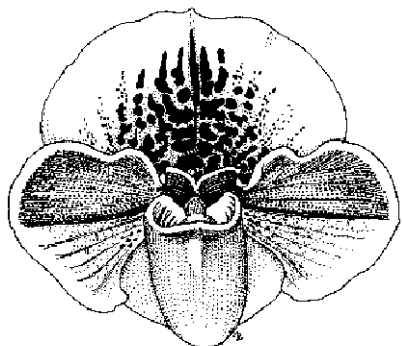
of the most popularly cultivated orchids are gearing up for their winter explosions now. *Phalaenopsis*, *cymbidiums*, *nobile* *dendrobiums* and many *laelias* and *cattleyas* are at their finest this month and over the next couple of months, hence the many orchid shows around the world starting around now. Make sure if you participate in shows by exhibiting plants, that they are adequately staked and well protected from the cold while being transported to and from the orchid show or club meeting. This usually means wrapping the plants in plastic bags in a warm room and warming up the car sufficiently before placing the

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plants inside. Orchids that have experienced environmental stress (either cold or heat) may not show symptoms immediately. They often will go into a slow, inexorable decline. So it is best to protect them really well while vulnerable during transport to avoid any negative consequences.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH** Much in the same way we send holiday cards out to remind long-neglected friends and relatives that we are out there and we still love and care about them, this is good month to take a full inventory of your collection. Get out a notebook and record what you have, what did well and what did not over the past year. If you've never done this before, January is a great month to begin and record baseline data for your collection. You can record things like pot size, number of growths, and whether it bloomed in the past year. How many spikes? How many flowers? Do you have images of the blooms? Did it get taken to shows or club meetings? Did anything go wrong that could be improved upon in the coming year? You might have a terrific memory and be able to store all this information between your ears, but still, it really can't hurt you to record some data on your plants. Maybe you'll want to donate your collection to a botanical garden someday. Wouldn't it be great to give the staff a recipe for success with the records you have kept? Documentation of our collection is a large part of our job here at the Smithsonian and we hope that what we record will help future staff members to take really excellent care of our collection in the new world that will hopefully exist 50, 100 and 500 years from now.

— *Thomas Mirenda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution and an AOS accredited judge. 3000 Cedar Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 (email MirendaT@si.edu).*





## Show and Tell



Lyc. Nagai International  
'Monterey Bay' AM/AOS  
Scott Collins



Lyc. Abou Rits 4N x Lyc. Abou  
Rits 2N



Sophranitis coccinea 4N



Paph. micranthum  
'Rainbow Bay Joni'



Paph. greyi



2018 SANTA CRUZ ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_ → (For newsletter)

Email Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_ → (For newsletter)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual SCOS Membership (\$20) : \_\_\_\_\_

Household SCOS Membership (\$25): \_\_\_\_\_

It is OK to share my email address with SCOS members. ☐

Please turn this form in with your membership dues (checks payable to SCOS) at the meeting to Lillian Derrigan or mail this form with your dues included to **SCOS, PO Box 1405, Santa Cruz, CA 95061**