



GGCS Newsletter

Golden Gate Cymbidium Society
A Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America, Inc.

September 25, 2019

The General Meeting

September 25, 2019

Wednesday @ 7:30 PM

Lakeside Park Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

Our September Meeting – Our Very First Meeting of the Season! We have missed You Guys all soooo much!

Our September Speaker

Bill Weaver

“Pesticides - Orchid Friends & Saviors”



Nothing is worst than seeing snails, slugs or bugs chewing up a freshly bloomed cymbidium bloom that you spent all summer and winter to get just right! Insects such as scales, mites and mealy bugs can leave your orchid's foliage with ugly spotting. Local Grower and Expert Massive Plant Grower, Bill Weaver, will talk with you on how to use insect pesticides to get rid of these nasty fiends, and to help keep your orchids pest-free and healthy!

Bill was a plant geek from a young age. In grammar school, he was a grower of pretty much any plant he could find. In high school he continued the theme of mowing lawns and pruning trees. But, it was in 1979 while a university student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, that he bought his first orchid (a Cymbidium) at a drive-in theater flea market, and got hooked !

After a move to Sunnyvale, he quickly filled 4 greenhouses in his back yard. But, that still wasn't enough room; no, he started renting greenhouse space in

Half Moon Bay. After 10 years he has expanded to 7,000 square feet of greenhouse space.

Bill sees himself as an amateur, but talks like a professional. His knowledge and experience of most orchids and their cultivation is amazing. His orchid entries have won Grand Champion Awards for the Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco in recent years. He really should be giving talks on “How to Grow a Monster Size Orchid”!

Bill is currently the president of the Malihini Orchid Society in San Jose; the Show Chairman and Board member of the Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers, in San Mateo. And a very active member of the San Francisco Orchid Society.

Free Parking and Free Raffle Ticket

If you pass the “toll booth” when you come into the park, tell the person there, that you are there for the Orchid Society meeting there in the Garden Room, and they will NOT charge you to pass through.

Raffle Table

... will be provided by Jim Donoso, who always is generous with the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society with his plants.

The President’s Message



Greetings Everyone! Your Prezzie, Sue Davis Here!!

Oh my goodness! Is it September already? Time for us to come together again!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and we all got our cymbidiums snug in new pots & medium... Right? Hmmmm.. I still have a few left... Oh well there’s next year.

We have some great speakers joining us this fall. Unfortunately I will be absent from our first meeting back. I hope many of you will turn out to support them and our society!

Start setting some of your newly repotted plants or extra cymbidiums to donate to our December Holiday Auction Party ...

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a

light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, **lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.**

2020 April Show Theme

This next coming meeting, we have to come up with a theme name, so postcards can be designed & printed in time for POE, CSA newsletter etc.. I really do hope in the coming years we gain more members & continue to participate, invest the time & effort into our club!

Without you the members, there is no club!

The Cymbidium Educational Corner, from Sue Davis Research

The flower on a Cymbidium looks like a miniature Cattleya except the colors are not quite as dramatic. However, the Cymbidium is almost 'bullet-proof' as far as its growth requirements and care are concerned.

Cymbidiums grow and bloom best in a favorable outdoor environment and are hardy to temperatures as low as 25°F. There can be from 8 to 18, four inch flowers on each "spike" in a one-gallon sized container. The "spikes" will be as tall as or a bit taller than the leaves in the pot.

Cymbidiums grow equally well in terra cotta, plastic or wooden containers. They will be happy there for up to three or four years when they should be put into a larger pot or divided.



Care of Cymbidium Orchids When Dormant – September - January

Yes, cymbidiums are dormant when in bloom!

What's happening: Almost like people, orchids need a chance to regroup before bursting from the gate with their year's best performance, the bloom. In the fall, leaves will stop growing as the

plant's energy is diverted toward the creation of that winter's bloom. In other words, much is going on beneath the surface.

What to do: Reduce watering at this point and place the plant in a cooler, darker area for several weeks to signal the cooler season required to signal winter. Indoors, a north facing window can work. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer, September through January once a month. Use low nitrogen fertilizer from August until January to give the plant a rest. High nitrogen causes rapid foliage growth at the expense of the bloom. Different levels of the three components of fertilizer (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium) signal the plant to expend its energies to specific parts of the plants. Nitrogen fuels growth of the fronds. Phosphorous revs up the blooms, and Potassium targets the roots. Keep media barely dry to almost moist throughout the winter. **Happy Blooming!**

The Cymbidium Society of America, Notes from Florence Inserto

GGCS Rep with CSA, from Most Recent Board Meeting Notes from July 2019



The CSA Board met in July in Santa Barbara, during the Open House at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchids.

The second volume of the CSA Journal has arrived! All CSA members may log into www.cymbidiumsofamerica to view recent and past volumes of the Journal.

You will read about the CSA Congress held yearly in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Orchid International Exposition in March. The CSA Congress will be held on 14 March 2020 at the Santa Barbara (Earl Warren) fairgrounds. Speakers To Be Determined.

George Hatfield, Awards Chair, announced the three Judging Centers in California have been condensed to two; Southern Judging Center from Los Angeles south with Phyllis Prestia as judging chair and Northern Judging Center merging with the Central Judging Center and George as the chair. Sylvia Darr was elevated to accredited judge, Ken Jacobson was given Emeritus status.

There will be no CSA judging at any Northern California Cymbidium Society meetings, only by request at shows.

The Judging Committee is planning on embarking on an outreach mission to educate the branches about judging cymbidiums, paphiopedilums and phragmipediums.



Time to join CSA & become a member.
Or renew your membership.

[Click Here To Register](#)



If you are not a current member, think of joining and receiving the most current information about growing cymbidiums, paphiopedilums and phragmipediums. It's easy and inexpensive to join for such valuable articles and information! See Florence Inserto, our CSA Rep, at one of our meetings, or click on

<https://www.cymbidium.org/membership-registration-form> .

Members' Thoughts, Photos

Golden Gate Cymbidium Society Member's Helpful Garden Hints:



From Ed and Ernestine Mc Lean: "Well, here's what I can report on: for what I have been using to feed my orchids, for who might have an interest. I purchased a liquid fertilizer from Costco. It's called Dr. Earth (Pure Gold). It comes in a 1-gallon (concentrated) bottle and makes 64 gallons. The numbers are 1-1-1, it is made from Digested Food Materials. It resembles fish emulsion in color, but not quite as bad of the smell. I have also been using ground alfalfa, epsom salts, and calcium (I add the alfalfa when I repot my orchids). We'll see what the results will be."

Hey Ed, Thanks for the Tip! Ed has served on our Board of

Directors at GGCS as every position I can think of ! Last few years he has been serving as Secretary and doing Food Preparation before the Meetings.

At the next meeting, come up to him, and just say Hi to him if you haven't seen him in a while!! Or you can "wave" at him on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/edward.c.mclean>.

You Have Some Thoughts or Photos You would like to Share with the Rest of Your Friends here at GGCS? Email goldengatecymbidiumsociety@yahoo.com !

Calendar of Orchid Events

September 20, 2019 Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Monthly Meeting Friday, 7:30 PM. San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Meetings are the 3rd Friday of the Month. Pierre Pujol will be speaking on his "Latest Observations of Plant Culture and Hybridization". For more info, go to www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com. Or their new interactive Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/488674388537627/>

September 21, 2019 American Orchid Society's Pacific Central Judging Center Monthly Orchid Judging. Saturday, 9 am. Fioli Visitor Center, 86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA 94062. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month. This new partnership establishes a series of monthly orchid judging and educational programming at **Filoli Gardens and Mansion**. View beautiful blooming orchids, learn about orchid care, and have **Your Own Orchids Judged!** Bring your blooming plant by 9AM. Stay to observe the judging, and stay for the Talk from a noted Orchid Speaker. While admission to the Fioli Visitor Center for the AOS Orchid Judging and Lectures are FREE, there is a separate fee to View and Tour the Fioli House and Gardens. For more information, click on <http://www.paccentraljc.org/>. Questions, email Jim Heilig at heiligja@msu.edu .

September 25, 2019 Golden Gate Cymbidium Society – OUR 1st Meeting of the Cymbidium Season Wednesday, 7:30pm. Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merrit, 666 Bellevue Dr., Oakland. Our Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the Month. Monthly meetings begin with a Show and Tell of member's cymbidiums and other orchids, interesting orchid Lecturer and slideshow, members snacks and a Raffle table of great plants! This month, Bill Weaver speaks on "Cymbidium Orchid Pesticides, Our Friends and Saviours". For more speaker info, see our [Next Meeting Page](#) of our website at www.GoldenGateCymbidiumSociety.com, or our Facebook page at www.GoldGateCymbidiumGrowers. We have a "Dinner with the Speaker" meal that we hold at 5:15 pm, BEFORE the meeting - if you would like to join them and hobnob with the speaker, please call / text at 408.316.0677 to Audrey Young-Tarter at least 24 hours ahead to make a dinner reservation (Your dinner is on you).

October 5, 2019 Peninsula Orchid Society Auction San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo CA. Bidder Pre-Registration, 12:30 pm Plant Previews, Auction starts at 1 pm. www.penorchidsoc.org or find them on [Facebook](#).

October 5 - 6, 2019 Napa Valley Orchid Society 26th Orchid Show & Sale "Explosion of Orchids". Saturday, 10am - 4 pm. Sunday, 10am - 3:30 pm. Las Flores Community Center, 4300 Linda Vita Avenue, Napa 94558. Purchase blooming orchids and supplies, orchid boutique, Art and Raffle, and Orchid Care Demonstrations. For more info, call 707.738.4128. Or see their website at NV-OS.org .

October 22, 2019) Marin Orchid Society Fall Silent Auction Tuesday at 6:30 PM, followed by live auction at 7 PM. Wine, cheese and other refreshments provided! Auction paddle Fee. Website <http://www.marinorchidsociety.com>.

October 18–20, 2019 The Huntington Botanical Gardens Annual International Orchid Show & Sale "Orchid Safari" Friday - Sunday 10 am to 5pm. Celebrate the amazing diversity of orchids—a vast family of more than 22,000 species in 880 genera—as hundreds of exotic blooms compete for honors at The Huntington's 3rd annual International Orchid Show and Sale. The event will showcase lush displays by local and regional orchid societies and international growers. Vendors ! Admission. www.huntington.org/orchidshow/, www.Facebook.com/huntingtonorchidshow/ .

Golden Gate Cymbidium Society – Officers and Directors

President, Sue Davis

VP / Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator, Audrey Young-Tarter, text her at (408) 316-0677, or email her at goldengatecymbidiumociety@yahoo.com

Secretary, Ed McLean

Treasurer & Membership, Helga Mahlmann

Facebook Managers, Ed McLean, Sue Davis, Connie Yip

Website Manager, Audrey Young-Tarter, text me with Your News! (408) 316-0677

Past President, Cheryl Phillipson

Directors, Jim Donoso, Jane Tsumima, Walter Blake

Newsletter Editor, Audrey Young-Tarter, text me with Your News! (408) 316-0677

Cymbidium Society of America Representative (cymbidium.org), Florence Inserto



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Oakland, CA