

February 2025

# OBAKE

NEWSLETTER OF  
MALIHINI ORCHID SOCIETY



# MALIHINI ORCHID SOCIETY

Visit us at  
<http://malihini.org/>



**MALIHINI MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Friday, February 14, 2025

**OUR NEW LOCATION**

1005 Railroad Avenue, Santa Clara, California

**SETUP STARTS AT 7PM, MEETING AT 7:30PM**

**SPEAKER**

**Bill Weaver and Conrad Kumata**

**TOPIC:**

We will be having two mini-talks by our knowledgeable members for the speaker portion. The speakers, their topics, and their BIOs are:

**1. "Backbulbs, What Are They and Why Do We Care?" by Bill Weaver**

I intend to explain what Cymbidium backbulbs are & how they are different from the pseudobulbs produced by other orchids. And the best part, how we can use them to make exact duplicates of our favorite orchids!





Bill Weaver was a plant geek starting at an early age, dumpster diving at the local nursery looking for cuttings and plants that he could rescue. When he went away to college, he took along his terrariums of carnivorous plants. That was where he “met” his first orchid. It was an unnamed white Cymbidium purchased at a drive-in theater flea market. This led to an ever-growing collection of orchids under lights in his little Palo Alto apartment.

Moving to Sunnyvale, once he filled up his back yard, he started renting space in Half Moon Bay. Over 15 years now, he has expanded to over 10,000 square feet there. After 37 years as a Customer Engineer at Hewlett Packard, Bill has retired and makes his ‘orchid money’ helping other growers with their greenhouses and repotting. He grows mostly Cymbidiums, Laelias, and other cool growing orchids. Over the years Bill’s plants have been awarded HCC, AM and one FCC from the American Orchid Society, as well as several CCM and CCE awards for his giant specimen plants. He also has a lovely orange Cymbidium named for him.

## 2. “Controlling My Greenhouse Environment” by Conrad Kumata

I will be talking about the equipment I use and what works for me. Hopefully it’ll give folks some ideas they might use in their own growing habitat.

Conrad is a long-time Malihini member. He is quite knowledgeable in growing orchids. Conrad is always eager to help new members with questions, and eager to help our orchid society.

### **OPPORTUNITY PLANT TABLE:**

**Weegie Caughlan** will be donating 23 Cymbidium back bulbs with growths of least 12” of leaf growth. We might hold back a few for another month’s plant table, if there are less than 19 members attending.

For BBs this size, Weegie charges \$15 each. This gives a total of \$345 for the value of the plant table. Since she knows we are trying to restart Malihini, she will donate the table at no cost to Malihini Orchid Society. Thank you for your generosity Weegie!

The following is a list of Cymbidium backbulbs Weegie donated:  
Plants for MOS from Weegie Caughlan

All Back Bulbs are from plants of show quality if grown well. Half are from previously awarded divisions.

AM/AOS	Award of Merit
HCC/AOS	Highly Commended Certificate
S/CSA	Silver Cymbidium Society of America
B/CSA	Broze Cymbidium Society of America



- 1) Autumn Crisp 'Cinnabar' HCC/AOS, S/CSA (Claude Pepper x Thanksgiving) orange standard
- 2) Fancy Dolly 'Snowball' Small white novelty
- 3) Fire Beauty 'Cinnabar' HCC/AOS, B/CSA (Firewheel x Red Beauty) Early blooming rose standard
- 4) Gladys Whitesell 'Contrast' (Fifi x parishii) Sparkling white pendulous Novelty with a bright red band on lip
- 5) Helen Tangcay 'Charming' AM/AOS, S/CSA (Dorothy Rowe x Hazel Tyers) large medium rose standard.
- 6) Jack Halpern (Redondo Sunset x Galette) Yellow standard with scarlet markings on lip
- 7) Jack Halpern 'Citrine' (Redondo Sunset x Galette) Well shaped, solid, bright yellow standard with scarlet on lips. May be awardable.
- 8) Joan's Charisma 'Windermere' (Joan's Charisma x self) White standard with red marks on lip.
- 9) Joan's Charisma 'Windermere' (Joan's Charisma x self) White standard with red marks on lip.
- 10) Olympus 'Albens' AM/RHS (Alexanderi x Vesta) Open form, small, antique white standard
- 11) Pure Sarah 'Starburst' HCC/AOS. (Sarah Jean x Pure Destiny) Pendent soft green novelty
- 12) Rina Soto 'Berries 'n Cream' (Ruth Kallman x Valley Splash) Cream to white Standard with blush markings on segments and on lip. May be awardable if well gown.
- 13) Royale Fare 'Number 5' HCC/AOS, B/CSA (Trigo Royale x Fanfare) Early, yellow green Standard for the early shows.
- 14) Squogre 'Lemon Mist' HCC/AOS (Icho Tower x So Bold) Well-formed green standard.
- 15) Tower of Fire 'Loyola' HCC/AOS (Electric Ladyland x Icho Tower) Burnt orange standard of excellent form. (Weegie's favorite from the cross)
- 16) tracyanum 'Herbert Passage' Open formed, dark green standard species with dark burgundy veins. Fragrant early bloomer.
- 17) Valley Splash 'Awesome' HCC/AOS, B/CSA (Vivacious x Hazel Tyers) Cream standard with rose overlay.
- 18) (Woody Wilson x Joan's Charisma) Large white std. Unregistered Loren Batchman hybrid

### **Biography: Ms. E. W. "Weegie" Caughlan**

My first interest in orchids came as a young girl in the fifties when one of my weekend chores to earn allowance money came from watering my mother's orchids. When my now ex-husband and I returned to my family home in 1976, ten of the Cymbidiums were still alive. I took over their care and started reading all the books I could find... And then I went with a friend to Rod McLellan's. My only early instructions from my mother had been to water and fertilize monthly.



By 1980, curiosity had turned to passion. By 1990, I had become “a fiercely, out of control, noncommercial, Cymbidium hobbyist”, and I still am! My first love was Cym. tracyanum and the other Cymbidium species. I learned early that I had an eye for balance and award quality and began submitting plants for AOS judging. I was successful more often than not. This was unusual in the Pacific Central Region at the time, as it did not see many quality cymbidiums and was extremely hard on the genus as a whole. I am currently a fully accredited senior judge with the AOS and I was a CSA judge until the program was disbanded in 2000.

I have served as President of the Peninsula Orchid Society, two terms as President of the Malihini Orchid Society, and three terms as President of the Gold Coast Cymbidium Society. I am currently Past President of GCCS. I was the founder of the Gold Coast Branch as well as a founding member of the Golden Gate Society Branch and served as a Director on its first Board.

Over the years, I have worked as Display Coordinator with clubs of which I was a member, to create successful, award-winning displays, The most successful with Leo Kusber of POS at POE and the last being the Gold Coast Branch display at the 2006 SBIOS (Santa Barbara International Orchid Show) which won the CSA Gold Medal.

I am currently liquidating my collection which at its peak had about 1,000 cymbidiums of blooming size and approximately 300 small seedlings. I did selective hybridizing primarily limited for the show bench. I still have a few Zygopetalums and Australian Dendrobiums. Most of the orchids are grown outside under 200 year old oak trees or in a 12-foot x 35-foot lath house. A 12-foot x 20-foot conservatory houses the select show plants on a rotational basis.

I have won numerous AOS and CSA awards including the AOS breeder's cross award, many CSA yearly trophies and many Best in Show and Best Cymbidium in Show awards in local shows. I was also fortunate to have won six Grand Champion awards and five Reserve Champion awards at SBIOS from 1994 with Cym. Gladys Whitesell 'The Charmer' AM/AOS-S/CSA- GM/13 WOC, to 2018 with Elle Ronis 'Cinnabar' AM/AOS, S/CSA. (Due to the pandemic, I have not exhibited since 2019). Cyms. Satin Dragon, Tower of Fire, Golden Valley and the Jack Halpern cultivars are a few of my own favorite hybrids waiting for more awards.

I currently live in the Bay Area with two adopted champion Great Danes. I always let my Dane quality speak for me and I have continued to do so with my Cymbidiums.



## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thanks to everybody who came out in the cold (California cold) to attend our January meeting. Our speaker for the night was Tanya Lam. She gave a great presentation on the use of a renewable and very versatile potting material, coconut husk! She explained how it could be used for many different orchids, depending on the percentage of coconut that you put in with your other materials. Tanya also provided us with an excellent plants table. And as always, the snacks were wonderful. Maybe we can convince John to bring more of those cookies in February.

At the February meeting, you can bring your Valentine to a presentation on backbulbs. The whys and wherefores of backbulbs and climate control in a greenhouse, both of these should be interesting talks. The plant table is going to be provided by Weegie Caughlan. If you know anything about Cymbidiums, you know this is going to be an excellent plant table.

*Bill Weaver*

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome Vandana Agarwal to our orchid society. Vandana is very interested in orchids and eager to learn!

Our returning members are Kalan Toy & Bill Weaver.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

There are many benefits in becoming a Malihini Orchid Society member:

- Learn about the various genera of orchids
- Learn the culture and cultivation of orchids
- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly orchid speaker(s)
- Opportunity to buy orchids from speaker's website without the shipping fee (speaker comes to give talk)
- Opportunity to acquire orchids through monthly meetings
- Show off your orchids during Show & Tell portion of our monthly meetings
- Connect with people with similar interest
- Ask questions about what ails your orchid
- Participate in our yearly orchid show & sale
- Holiday dinner, where we give each member who attends an orchid

Starting from January 2025, the membership fee will be \$20/year. If you have any questions, you can contact **Gurmeet Kaur, the Membership Chair**, at our meetings.



Visit [malihini.org/membership](http://malihini.org/membership)

CLICK on Membership form, PRINT form, fill in the blanks

Bring membership form to meeting

Email: [malihini.society@gmail.com](mailto:malihini.society@gmail.com)

### **UP COMING EVENTS**

• **February 27, 28 – March 2, 2025**

**“Orchids in the Clouds” - The 72nd Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition will be at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park- San Francisco, California**

Discounted advance sale tickets will be available at

<https://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/events.html>

• **March 7–9, 2025**

**“Exotic Garden” – The 77th annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show at Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, California!**

<https://sborchidshow.com/tickets-2025/>

**72nd Annual** San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:  
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

**Orchids In the Clouds**

Feb 28 - Mar 1, 2025 10am - 5pm  
March 2, 2025 10am - 4pm

County Fair Building  
1199 9th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA

Preview Night:  
Feb 27, 2025 6-9pm  
(Must be 21 and older)

[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)  
Discounted advance tickets available online

77th Santa Barbara  
INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

**EXOTIC GARDENS**

March 7th–9th, 2025  
9AM-5PM

EARL WARREN  
SHOWGROUNDS

[sborchidshow.com](http://sborchidshow.com)