

# Golden Gate Cymbidium Society

A Branch of the Cymbidium Society of America

Volume 62 Issue 4

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

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**SPEAKER FOR APRIL 22, 2009**

**PAULA SHIU**

Paula is going to share her collection of photos of past shows that she has compiled over the last few years. It will probably include some very interesting entries and winners of our local shows. You might even see one of your own on the screen. Come and enjoy our beautiful cymbidiums.

Dinner at Grand Oaks Restaurant is at 5 p.m., Paula can't make it, but you are welcome to come. Call Nancy Starr at 510-261-7530 to reserve.

Steve Thai will be providing an interesting Opportunity Table.

Show and Tell & Sales 6:30 p.m.

Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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MESSAGE FROM NANCY STARR, SHOW CHAIRPERSON:

Those who volunteered at the show be sure and attend this meeting....we will have a special surprise for you. Don't miss it.

## COCONUT COIR A MODERN MEDIUM FOR GROWING ORCHIDS

Over fifty million tons of coconuts are harvested annually world wide and about twelve million tons of this weight are husks, normally a waste product. A fiber called coir which is an excellent medium for growing orchids can be recovered from the husks.

Studies have shown that coir has a number of major advantages, shown below, over traditional potting medium such as horticultural rock wool, peat moss and bark.

1. Coir is hydrophilic, meaning that it absorbs water and nutrients. This provides an important buffering capacity.
2. Coir is composed of over ninety per cent pore space which provides up to seventy percent water volume and at least fifteen percent air volume. This property promotes a strong root system for orchids.
3. Unwashed coir contains more than 100 parts per million of potassium which enhances both root and shoot formation.
4. Research has shown that unwashed coir inhibits the growth of plant pathogens.
5. Coir can last at least 3 – 5 years in a orchid pot before decomposition becomes significant.

6. Using coir takes little time and energy in repotting your orchids since one can retain the old medium. The resulting minimal root disturbance reduces transplanting shock.
7. Disposal of used coir is environmentally friendly because it can be used as an organic soil amendment.
8. Use of only freshly harvested coir avoids problems with salinity.

## GROW GREEN – USE COIR AS YOUR ORCHID MEDIUM

Limit 5

TEST YOUR PLANTS FOR VIRUS:

Call for an appointment so Joe Giangrosso can bring the test kits to the meeting. TEST IS IN LARGE KITCHEN FROM 6:30 P.M. PLEASE be on time. Have a new leaf from the suspected plant sealed in a zip-lock baggie. The test only takes a minute and is for the TM-V only. His phone is 510-568-1962 Kits are \$4.25 each

CSA JUDGING: Groom & Clean your plant and submit to the Head Clerk by 7 p.m. in the large kitchen, NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN TO JEFF TRIMBLE AT LEAST ONE DAY AHEAD so he can assemble the Judges. Phone 650-368-8260 (or leave a message) email

FIRST BLOOM SEEDLING CONTEST: THE JIM CROSSLEY YEARLY AWARD, Plant MUST be A first-bloom for a NEW CROSS only !!! Forms available from Secretary. Call Paula Shiu 510-237-0471 so she can make arrangements. A perpetual plaque is awarded at our July Pot Luck each year. The new year will start August '08 though June '09

NOTE: **SEEDLING MUST BE A NEW CROSS!!! NOT AN OLD VARIETY.**

CSA MEMBERSHIP: DO THIS FOR OUR CLUB. It is strongly recommended for all our members to join our MOTHER CLUB. It provides insurance for all our activities and meetings. You will receive a beautiful Journal every two months and could be eligible for certain CSA awards. Visit CSA website [www.cymbidium.org](http://www.cymbidium.org) or club representative, Rita Pascoe. Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to : CSA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, CLARA MOURA, 1742 GROVE WAY, CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546 (She is usually at our meeting

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING: BRING ENOUGH FOR 10 PEOPLE. DON'T FORGET SOMETHING FOR THE ONES WHO CAN'T HAVE SWEETS.

REQUEST FROM OUR LIBRARIAN: Joe Giangrosso has asked for donations to build our club library. If anyone has any interesting orchids books they would like to donate call him at 510-568-1962.

These will be books that can be borrowed by members to read and enjoy, and then returned to the library. Please, clean out your bookshelves..

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\*\*\* WHO HAS THE PARENTAGE BINDERS ???? please return immediately !!!!  
Bring to the meeting.....they should be returned to our Librarian, there are other members who would like to use them !!!!!!!!!!!

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

OPEN HOUSE: D & D FLOWERS FALL SALE. MAY 2 & 3, 2009: 9 am to 4 pm  
In Half Moon Bay. Greenhouse not open to public except for spring and fall open events,  
Cymbidiums, cattleyas, oncidiums, paphs, phrags and many more genra. Really good prices.  
Just east of Spanish town, Hwy 92. Turn between house and firewood business, go over the  
bridge into the greenhouse complex. D & D is on the right. If you go beyond the large dinosaur  
statues in front of the house and you are at Main Street...you have gone too far.

FIORI D'AMORE ANNUAL ORCHID SALE: MAY 2 – 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2009. 9 am – 4 pm.  
Mother's Day (10<sup>th</sup>) 9 am – 2 p.m. 4526 Fair Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619 FREE  
[www.orchidsFioriDamore.com](http://www.orchidsFioriDamore.com).

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND SHOW AND SALE. MAY 8, 9 10, 2009 AT Lake Merritt  
Garden Center 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA [www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com](http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com)

EXPRESS ORCHID EXPOSITION 2009, MAY 30-31 Hours Sat. 9 am – 5 pm Show &  
Sale; Sun. 9 am – 5 pm Show & Sale. Days include skill sessions, silent auction to benefit the  
Orchid Conservation Alliance. Where: Holiday Inn Express Hotel, San Jose International Airport  
located at 1350 N. Forth Street, San Jose, CA 95112 Parking free, admission free.

### CLUB SALE ITEMS AVAILABLE

Stock up for next season's dividing. We have a good supply of one gallon size for  
.65 cents each. Call Rita 510-276-2851 to order and pick up.  
We also have a supply of razor blades \$4.00 a box of 100; plant tags \$3.50 a pack.  
(at meeting)

### CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT	Ed McLean	510-769-0444	DIRECTORS:	
VICE-PRES.	Nancy Starr	510-261-7530	Mel Jones	510-531-6368
SECRETARY	Rita Pascoe	510-276-2851	Clara Moura	510-537-8923
TREASURER	Jewel Pierce	510-278-1494	James Donoso	510-562-9006
			Ceajay Palanca	510-372-5782 (after 5 p.m.)

### COMMITTEES:

LIBRARIAN	Joe Giangrosso	510-568-1962	email: <a href="mailto:jojograsso@peoplepc.com">jojograsso@peoplepc.com</a>
PLANT SALES	Mel Jones	510-531-6368;	Agnes Radell 925-829-0485
RAFFLE	Jane Tsushima	510-635-5129	
MEMBERSHIPS	Loretta Rodrigues	510-538-8632	email: <a href="mailto:loretta193@aol.com">loretta193@aol.com</a>
REFRESHMENTS	Bob & Juanita Breckwoldt	415-479-2329	
AV TECH	Bob Brechwoldt	" "	
LIGHTING	John & Bill Chu	5510-832-4391	
NAME TAGS	Vern Viani & Rita Pascoe		
NEWS EDITOR	Rita Pascoe	510-276-2851	
NEWS MAILING	Jewel Pierce	510-278-1494	
JUDGE COORDINATOR	Paul Chim	510-635-3260	

CSA MEMBERSHIPS Clara Moura 510-537-8923 (Can pay at meetings!)  
 CSA CLERKS John Chu  
 CSA Judges Steve Thai, Paul Chim, Trudy Hadler, Ken Jacobsen, Paula Shiu  
 Jeff Trimble (Associate Judge) Ben Low (Associate Judge)  
 CSA Club Rep. Rita Pascoe

NEXT BOARD MEETING IS May 13, 2009 at the Fruitvale Library,  
 FRUITVALE AVENUE, OAKLAND. (TWO BLOCKS EAST OF 580)  
 Next General Meeting is May 27, 2009 Sales and Show & Tell  
 at 6:30 p.m. Plant judging is at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL (FOR NEWS) \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKS PAYABLE TO GOLDEN GATE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY (GGCS)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.00 per household) **CSA Member** \_\_\_\_\_\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **LIFE MEMBER \$100.00**

YOU MAY RENEW CSA OR ENROLL AS NEW: MAKE SEPARATE CHECK TO CSA

SEND TO MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: LORETTA RODRIGUES, 3773 Somerset Ave.,  
 Castro Valley, CA 94546

OR PAY AT THE MEETING

GOLDEN GATE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY  
205 CHERRY WAY  
HAYWARD, CA 94541

DATED MATERIAL