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Next Meeting: Thursday 10th June 7:30pm Curtis Gean - "Native Orchids of California"

Curtis Gean will present a program on Native Orchids of California. Curtis' involvement with orchids started in the late 1960s. He was looking for exotic plants to supplement a photo shoot he had undertaken; a local nursery directed him to a man who "grew a few orchids". He helped Curtis to obtain the information he needed and invited him to a meeting of the local society, where he won two raffle plants. That was all it took! He was hooked! This individual became Curtis' mentor and a good friend. The friendship endured until he passed away a few years ago at the age of 96. His name was Homer C. Dodson – father of the internationally recognized orchid taxonomist – Callaway Dodson. It was through Homer's guidance that Curtis was able to learn enough about orchids to enable him to eventually become a certified AOS judge in 1983.



Michael's Rein Orchid, Photo by Ken-ichi, found along Falls Trail on Mt. Diablo

In his study of orchids, Curtis became curious about what orchids occurred naturally in California. This became the basis of his ongoing search for native orchids. In 1996, he moved to the State of Colima in Mexico where he spent most of the next ten years. He did considerable exploring of the western areas of Mexico, especially the Pacific Coast, and was able to locate and photograph many of the native orchids. He now lives in Sanger, about 15 miles east of Fresno.

Curtis has prepared a program which he hopes will stimulate the members' interest in searching for, finding, and photographing the native orchids of our area.

Speaker's Dinner will be at 5:30 at Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Ln. Pleasant Hill. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker. If you plan to attend, please notify Liz Charlton at (925) 280-1671 or email dvosnews@gmail.com so we can include you in the reservation.

Plant table will be provided by Curtis Gean; and will include Paphs., Phals., Catts., & Dens.



Masd. Noname 'Purple' (Ken Cook)



Tricopilia tortilis (Akiko Ogawa)



Masd. Angel Frost 'Highland'
x Masd. coccinea (Brian
Wraxall)