

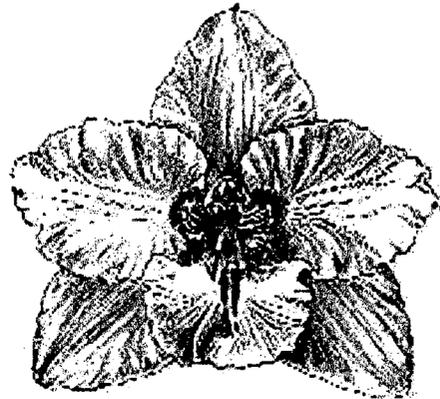
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

February 2010

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CYRTOCHILUM SHARONIAE, SMALL BUT COLORFUL

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The first time I came across this orchid was through some flowers that had been submitted to the Selby Gardens' Orchid Identification Center (OIC) by Sheila Anstall of Salt Lake City, Utah (which seems like an unusual place to grow *Cyrtochilum* by the way), in November of 1976. The species was originally identified as *Oncidium camiciferum* (Rchb.f.) Beer (= *Cyrtochilum camiciferum* (Rchb.f.) Dalström), and accessed into the collection as OIC 1150. During my first visit to Selby Gardens in 1981, I examined this specimen, drew a flower and was struck by the odd morphology, not corresponding to a typical *C. camiciferum* at all. I was unable to find another name for it, however, and put it away in my miscellaneous Oncidiinae file as an unidentified species. At the time, I was occupied with trying to make some sense out of the rather generous mixture of taxa lumped together in the genus *Odontoglossum* Kunth. It was already well established among taxonomists that the genus consisted of many different types of plants, some of which did not seem closely related at all. Eventually, among many other taxonomic transfers, one large group of plants was placed in the genus *Cyrtochilum* based on a combination of morphological features and molecular evidence (Dalström, 2001). This particular project got me sidetracked from *Odontoglossum* and I found myself fully occupied with the equally complex and confusing genus *Cyrtochilum*. I decided to try and make some taxonomic sense out of it while still relatively fresh in my mind, rather than just dumping the species along the scientific "roadside" and continue with *Odontoglossum*. During this work I visited Manuel Arias and his family in Lima, Peru, owner of the Peruflora orchid nursery, where I discovered some blooming plants of a very odd looking *Cyrtochilum*. The plants were nameless at the time and differed vegetatively from all other species in the genus that I had seen. The pseudobulbs were very dark green, similar to the pseudobulbs of an *Anguloa*, and the leaves were just as deep green but with a purplish hue, particularly along the edges, and also covered by a strange

glaucous surface. Somehow, however, the flowers seemed oddly familiar to me. On my return to the United States I went back to my files of unidentified species and found the drawing of OIC 1150 from 1981, and they matched very well. I concluded that it must be a new species, but procrastinated in doing something about it. During an expedition to southern Peru in 2002 together with Jan Sönnemark of Halmstad, Sweden, and a group of orchid students from the Cusco University, led by Luis Valenzuela, additional plants of this unusual *Cyrtochilum* were discovered. The plants grew in a dense and wet cloudforest on the eastern slopes of the Andes at a fairly high elevation, together with plants of *Cyrtochilum minax* (Rchb.f) Kraenzl. It was a pleasant surprise to finally have a valid locality and to learn about the natural habitat of this interesting species. It was finally described in Selbyana 28(2): 106-108, 2007. I had previously “nick-named” this species *Cyrtochilum* “glaucobulbon”, which may have been a decent name for it, but I chose to name it after Sharon Stephens of Sarasota, Florida instead, who together with her husband Russell has supported my research for years. The name “glaucobulbon” was unfortunately used for this species in the February 2009 issue of The Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter. *Mea culpa!*

Cyrtochilum sharoniae differs from all other species in this otherwise diverse genus by the large and creeping foliaceous plant, with a dark, slightly purplish-green coloration. The leaves are covered by a glaucous surface, which is unique in the genus and similar to some pendent, unrelated orchid species such as *Sudamerlycatse* (synonyms: *Ida*, or *Lycaste*) *dyeriana* (Sander ex Rolfe) Oakeley and *Masdevallia caesia* Roezl. The vegetative habit of *Cyrtochilum sharoniae*, however, is similar to most other species in the genus, with an erect growth and arching leaves. The significance of the “glaucous” wax-like surface is unknown to me. The coloration of the flower is also distinctive, being dark purplish brown and with a clear lilac column, making it a rather attractive species in a modest way. The numbers of flowers on the up to 3 m long, wiry inflorescence well make up for the small size.

LITERATURE CITED

Dalström, S. 2001. A synopsis of the genus *Cyrtochilum* (Orchidaceae; Oncidiinae): Taxonomic reevaluation and new combinations. *Lindleyana* 16(2): 56-80.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

FIGURE 1. *Cyrtochilum sharoniae* Dalström. **A:** Plant habit (Dalström 2638; SEL). **B:** flower lateral view. **C:** Dissected flower. **D:** Column and anthercap lateral view, **E:** Column ventral view, anthercap dorsal view and pollinarium . **F:** Stipe and viscidium reverse and lateral views.

Editors Note:

As you may be aware, Selby Gardens have completely closed there operations related to orchids. Stig Dalstrom, is no longer at Selby Gardens. He has been a contributor of numerous articles for our newsletter. I am happy to report that Stig has agreed to continue to be a provider of interesting and appropriate articles. He will contribute an article an issue for the balance of the year. We hope that the arrangement will continue into the future.

John Miller: Editor



Cyrtorchilum sharoniae

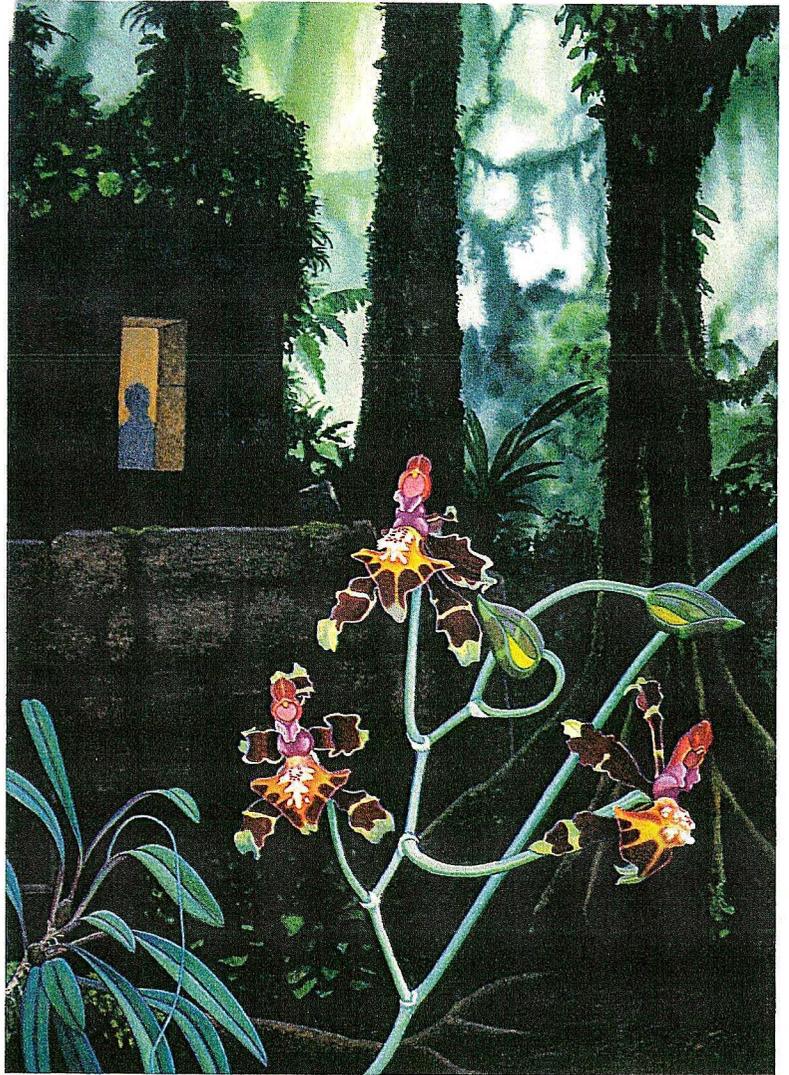




FIGURE 1.

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will be held in San Francisco during the San Francisco Orchid Show at Fort Mason. This will be a joint meeting of the Pleurothallid and Odontoglossum Alliances. The show venue has been changed from that of previous years. Judging is held on Thursday, 25 February. On Friday, the next day the show is open for viewing. That same day is called the Gala Day with a celebration in the evening. This is the substitute for the preview party. The show is open on Saturday and Sunday closing at 5:00 PM Sunday, 28 February. The Alliance meeting is scheduled for Saturday 27 February. In addition to beautiful displays the show has a huge area devoted to plant sales. The vendors, of which there are many, are both domestic and foreign. For anyone interested in acquiring plant material, the widest possibilities are available. Events for both Alliances will include a tour of Bob Hamilton, John Leathers and Tim Brydon's greenhouse in Pacifica.

This will be a joint dinner between the Pleurothallid Alliance and the Odontoglossum Alliance Saturday evening at the Firehouse also located in the Fort Mason complex... We will have two speakers and our usual auction of fine Odontoglossum alliance plants and associated material. The Pleurothallid Alliance will also be auctioning some of their fine material.

Steve Beckendorf will be the evening speaker for the Odontoglossum Alliance. We understand Andrea Nissan will be the speaker for the Pleurothallid Alliance. Both groups will be auctioning plant material.

The thrust of this meeting is constrained to our national economic situation. We are trying to contain the costs as much as possible.

We look forward to a good crowd. In this February newsletter are more details on the meeting. This includes suggestions as to hotel locations close to the show.

The San Francisco Orchid Show is the best show in North America to see Odontoglossum alliance material in the show. The sales area is huge with many opportunities to acquire high quality material.

A good web site to look for hotels is: www.sftravel.com. A selection of hotels picked from the web site follows.

Travelodge by the Bay (415) 673-0691
1450 Lombard St. San Francisco, CA 94123

Lombard Motor Inn (415) 441-6000
1475 Lombard St.

Francisco Bay Motel (415) 474-3030
1501 Lombard St.

Redwood Inn (415) 776-3800
1530 Lombard St.

Town House Motel (415) 885-5163
1650 Lombard St.

Star Motel (415) 346-8250
1727 Lombard St.

Cow Hollow Motor Inn* (415)-921-5800
Lombard Street

S F Motor Inn (415) 921-1842
1750 Lombard St.

Coventry Motor Inn (415) 567-1200
1901 Lombard St.

Ramada Limited (415) 775-8116
1940 Lombard St.

Buena Vista Motor Inn* (415) 923-9600
PO Box 475517 San Francisco, CA 94147

Chelsea Motor Inn (415) 563-5600
2095 Lombard St San Francisco, CA 94123

Motel Capri (415) 346-4667
2015 Greenwich St.

Hotel Del Sol (415) 921-5520
3100 Webster St.

Best Inn (415) 776-3220
2850 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA 94109

These hotels are within a couple of blocks of Fort Mason. These appear to be clean and comfortable, but not elegant. The web site offers reviews of the hotels. The ones marked with an * I have stayed at for previous meetings and shows. They are clean, neat, not elegant, reasonably priced and with parking. I often walked to the show from these hotels.

Tour Locations

Saturday 27 February 2010

Bob Hamilton, John Leathers, and Tim Brydon Greenhouses.

These greenhouses are located in Pacifica. It is suggested you tour here commencing about 10:00 AM and plan to depart no later than 4:00 PM.

Directions to Pacifica from Fort Mason

Whether one begins on Lombard St. or Fort Mason, the directions to Pacifica are virtually the same.

If you start on Lombard St. proceed west toward the Golden Gate Bridge. Lombard will become Doyle Drive, which is the roadway to the bridge.

If you start at Fort Mason, turn right after leaving the parking lot and proceed west on Marina Blvd. Marina will merge with Doyle Drive, which is the roadway to the bridge.

Once on Doyle Drive stay in the right-hand line and prepare to exit onto CA-1 (Hwy 1) south. If you miss this exit you will be on the Golden Gate Bridge on your way to Canada.

Proceed south on CA-1. CA-1 is Park Presidio Drive for this part of the trip. Travel about 1.7 miles. Move to the right-hand lane and turn right at Geary St. Once on Geary St. you will be heading due West toward the Pacific Ocean.

Follow Geary 1.7 miles. Geary's right lanes will flow into Point Lobos. Take Point Lobos to the Cliff House. Point Lobos will turn left and become The Great Highway, which runs North to South along the ocean.

Follow the great Highway for about 3.5 miles. The Great Highway will end at Skyline Blvd (route 35). Turn right and proceed to the Hwy. 1/Pacifica exit (right-turn).

Head down the hill into Pacifica. (WARNING - the speed limit throughout Pacifica is 55 mph not 65 mph and the Pacifica police make a living on their radar traps).

Follow Hwy. 1 (Cabrillo Highway) until you reach the first stop light at Reina Del Mar. Make a U-turn at Reina del Mar and proceed north on Hwy 1 about 1/5 mile. Turn sharply at the driveway up a steep hill. There is a large green sign, which reads ORCHIDS at this driveway.

The first pair of greenhouses you come to are Hawk Hill and Joe & Kathy Parker's.

The cell phone number for Bob Hamilton and John Leathers is 510-325-7557. Greenhouses will be open from 10AM - 4PM.

To get to the Pacifica Greenhouses from Berkeley

As you leave Berkeley on either Buchanan or Gilman turn left on I-80 and cross the Bay Bridge toward San Francisco. After the bridge, continue on I-80 toward San Jose. The highway becomes US-101, stay on it until you see signs for I-280.

Take a right exit onto I- 280 toward Daly City and continue for 6.4 miles.

Take a right exit onto CA-1, south toward Pacifica. At 5.6 miles you come to the first stoplight at Reina del Mar.

Make a U-turn at Reina del Mar and proceed north on Hwy 1 about 1/5 mile. Turn sharply at the driveway up a steep hill. There is a large green sign, which reads ORCHIDS at this driveway.

The first pair of greenhouses you come to are Hawk Hill and Joe & Kathy Parker's. The next set up the hill belong to Golden Gate Orchids and are Tom Perlite's cool houses on the Coast.

San Francisco Orchid Show

Fort Mason

Gala Party Friday, 26 February; tickets may be purchased ahead of time over the Internet. They also may be purchased at the door at the time of the show

Web Address: <http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>

There are links at this web site to purchase both the Gala party and show tickets.

Meeting Location

Dinner, Speakers and Auction

The location for the 27 February on Saturday is at the Firehouse which is in the Fort Mason complex. For the dinner the local members of both Alliances are providing most of the meal with the major entre being purchased. In this way the costs will be held to a minimum. We do not know the costs as of this writing, but we can assure all attendees that \$10.00 per person is the limit of the charge. Payment will be at the door at the time of the function.

To make a reservation for dinner, and it is important to do so, e mail Bob Hamilton with the number of people attending. His Email address is:

bob@eecs.berkeley.edu

Please do so before Monday, 22 February

It is important to have a count of attendees.

Wine and soft drinks will be available. In this newsletter are some illustrations of the Firehouse. All events will be held here with dinner starting at 6:00PM. The room will be open starting at 5:00 PM for a social period and cocktails. We would expect the program of two speakers to commence at about 7:30 PM. The auction will begin about 9:00 PM to close the evening. We ask all participants to contribute what they can to the auction. We hope this will be an opportunity for members to obtain some fine material not otherwise available.

Speakers

Steve Beckendorf will be the speaker for the Odontoglossum Alliance. His topic is "Breeding Crispum-type Odontoglossums".

Classic odontoglossum breeding has been dominated by a single species, *Odontoglossum crispum*. In this talk Steve will review the variety of crispums available to the early breeders, look at the contributors of foundation species, and show that records for much of the important breeding have been lost. Finally, he will consider the importance of exceptional plants in the development of fine odontoglossum hybrids.

Andrea Nissan is the probable speaker for the Pleurothallid Alliance and her topic is not available as of this newsletter.

Auction

The practice of the auction of fine odontoglossum material at our meetings has been the mainstay of the Odontoglossum Alliance. It provides that extra cushion of resources making it available to expand the color in the newsletters. It provides an opportunity for members attending the auction event to acquire material that would otherwise not be available. It is a fun and exciting event.

Therefore I request all attendees to find those things that you can part with and contribute them to the auction. Plants, back bulbs with starting growths of awarded or near award quality, flasks (for those with the ability to grow them out), seedlings of promising potential and related odontoglossum material (books, publications, prints, watercolors, etc). If you are attending the dinner or in San Francisco get them to either the meeting on Saturday or e mail Bob Hamilton and make arrangements to get them there. Your contributions will be appreciated and really help our Alliance.

Cyrtochilum

Part III

We continue publishing our newsletter series of the species of the Odontoglossum Alliance. This issue is devoted to *Cyrtochilums*. In this genus, according to the Kew Monocot List, there are 128 species. As this is a very large family three issues of the newsletter will be devoted to *Cyrtochilums*. When one considers that for each species both a front and profile view are often included and sometimes multiple flowers shown to demonstrate the variability of the species, this means a fairly large number of illustrations. The basis for this issue is the list and pictures provided by Dr. Guido Deburghgraeve. His list is extensive but not complete. Efforts will be made to try include illustrations of all the *Cyrtochilum* species as defined in the Kew Monocot list. In this issue I have started after *Cyrt. hastatum* which was published in the August newsletter. If any member has photograph of the species missing in this section of the alphabet, I would appreciate having copies sent to me (jemiller49@aol.com) for inclusion in future newsletters and perhaps we can have a publication of the complete species as defined by the Kew Monocot list. Please note that the list actually contains 207 records. The 129 number are those records in bold that are the recognized species. The non-bold names are synonyms. We are indebted to Dr. Guido for providing these photos taken from his extensive collection



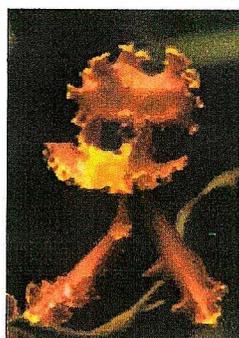
Cyrt. rubrocallosum



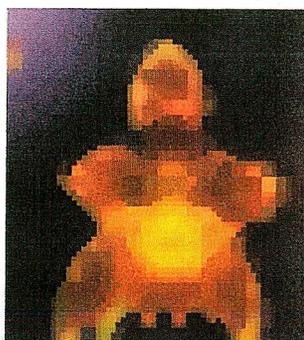
Cyrt. serratum



Cyrt. serratum



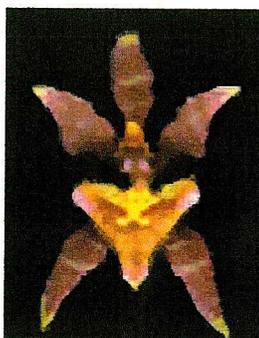
Cyrt. species



Cyrt. species



Cyrt. species



Cyrt. species



Cyrt. species





Cyrt. species



Cyrt. species



Cyrt. tetraplasium



Cyrt. trifurcatum



Cyrt. tricostatum



Cyrt. trilingue



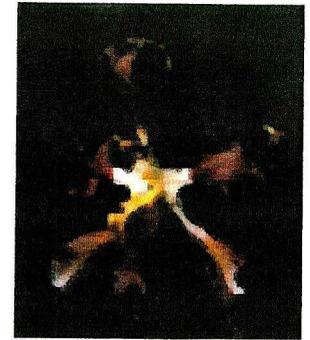
Cyrt. trilingue

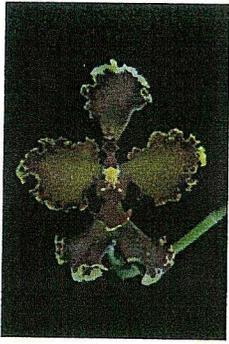


Cyrt. tucumanense

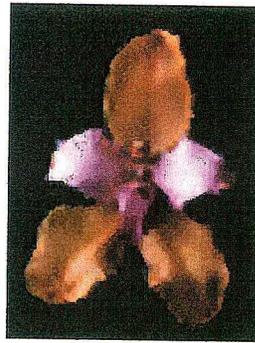


Cyrt. tucumanense





Cyrt. tumiferum



Cyrt. undulatum



Cyrt. undulatum



Cyrt. volubile



Cyrt. weirii



Cyrt. Willy



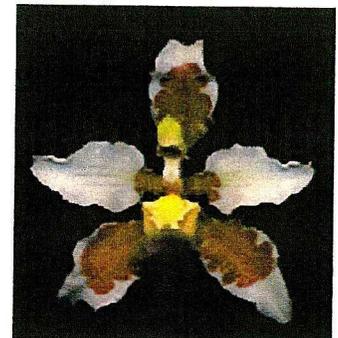
Cyrt. macranthum



Cyrt. xanthodon



Cyrt. zebrinum



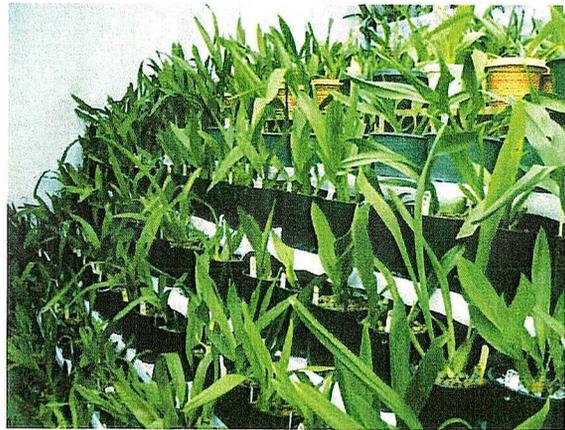
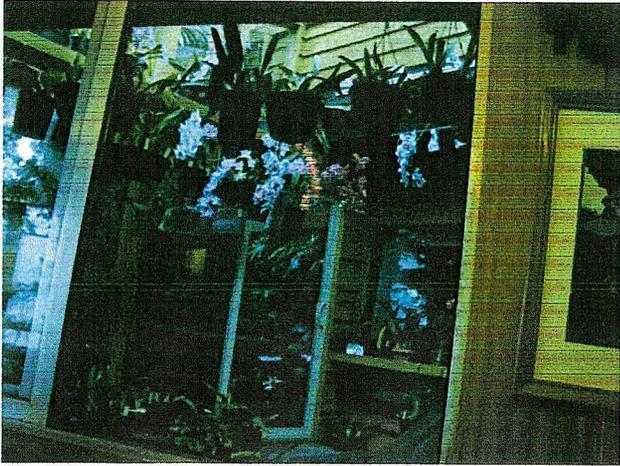
SOLAR GREENHOUSE

by Dr. Wally Thomas

I needed a new greenhouse and the only level place to suit my troublesome knee was in the trees near the house and I also wished to make it 'Solar'. The house is 15x16 ft, with a rim concrete base and a 6" baseboard with upright 2x4's on 18" centers. The outer siding is plywood except at the front where there is cedar siding for appearance. The back floor is about 18" higher than the front. The roof is 16ft single slope double glazed plastic on 4 ft. centers and a 3ft. back slope roof of plywood. The front vent windows are 48"x30" and of the same roofing glazing and slope out in front 10" and are opened by solar activated units. All walls are insulated with glass wool battens between the 2x4 uprights. The wall area inside is then totally lined with white 55% polyethylene shade cloth. A double glazed door on the side opens to the lower cross walk and three steps up to the upper walkway. All benching is wood. From front to back there is a flat 24" bench a 24" walkway, a 36" 6 tiered bench going up to a flat 30 inch flat bench, a second 24" walkway and a 36" flat bench. The 6 tiered bench is made of 8" wide planks slightly tilted backwards for drainage. There is a 1/2" rim around the front and sides of each plank and it is covered with appropriately fitting white poly strips to control drainage backwards avoiding the plants below. The back bench has 4- 2x4's coming down from the top of the back wall. They come out 14" onto the bench (allowing a clear flat 24" in front). Starting from the side wall they are set at 3,2,6,2,3 ft. intervals. The 2 ft. intervals allow for steps between at the bottom, and 2 venting fans near the top of the wall. Starting at the top there are wooden cross strips for 4 rows of hanging pots and strips of white poly are placed along each wooden strip. The poly is wide enough that it guides all the water from the plant above to the back wall to reach the ground. One of the fans is electrical and on a timer, the other is solar and gives increasing volume with increasing light. Heating is with a Southern Burner gas unit with backup from an electric thermostatically controlled unit. A small fan constantly blows from the upper to the lower area. The plants were moved in May to July 09; those repotted are late blooming. They are crowded but have done very well and as they bloom they join the others in the display atrium fronting on the dining room



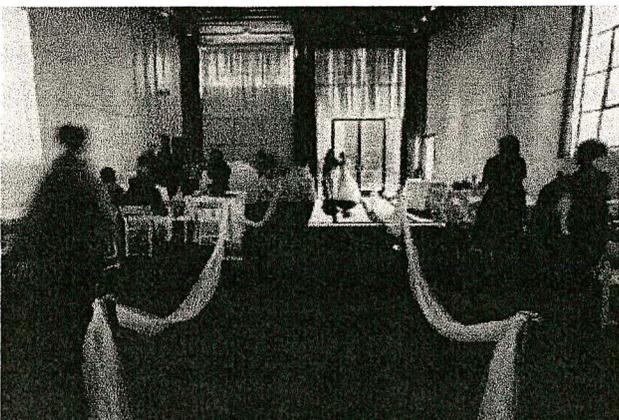
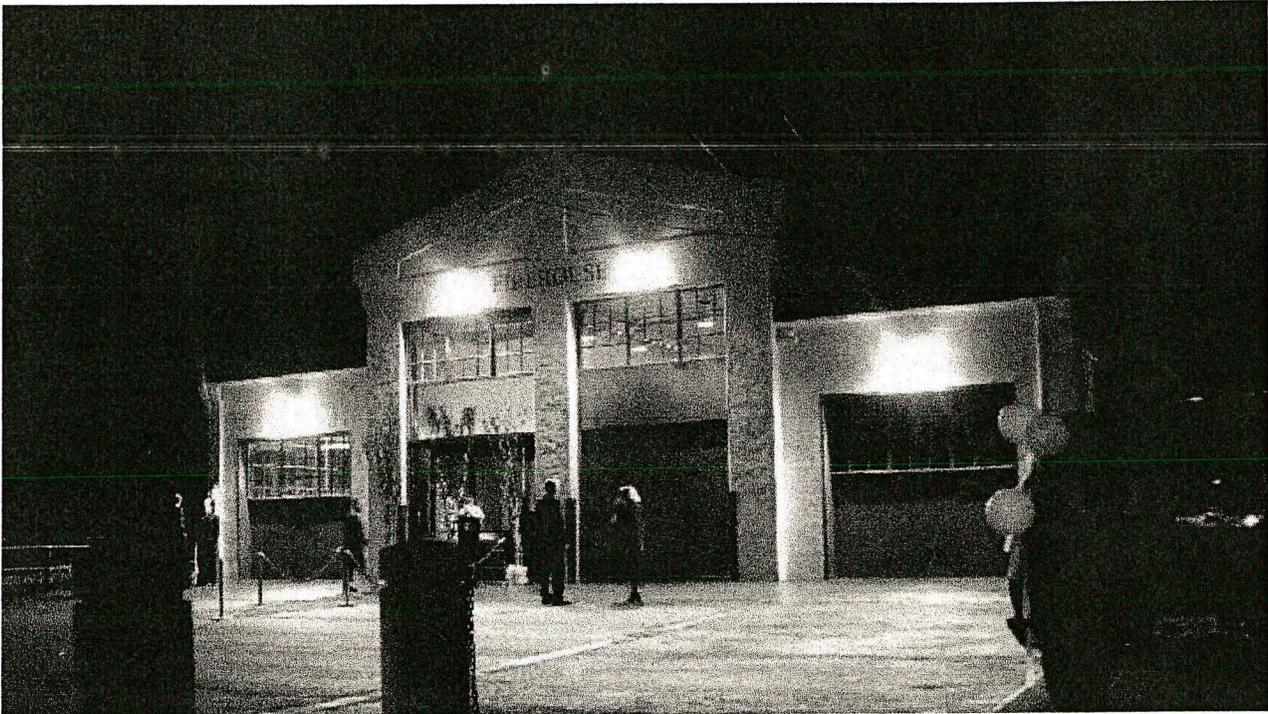
Wally's Solar Greenhouse



Fort Mason Center
Firehouse
Location of Pleurothallid and Odontoglossum Alliances Dinner
Saturday, 27 February

Firehouse

Perfect for weddings, receptions, meetings, retreats, birthday parties, book signings, classes, and exhibitions, the Firehouse is a charming special event space. Fully carpeted, the meeting room has track lighting on the inside and spectacular outdoor space that overlooks the bay with views of Angel Island and Alcatraz.



Contact Information

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www.fortmason.org/venue/rental/firehouse.shtml

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