

River Park Garden Club Newsletter

February and March, 2026

Orchids: Beauties That are Anything but Fragile

The myth that orchids are fragile and difficult to grow” is a bad rap that they have gotten,” said orchid lover Tyler Albrecht. “Actually, they like neglect, so they are the perfect plants for people who don’t want to fuss.”

Albrecht will discuss how to grow his favorite flowers at the next River Park Garden Club meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, at Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Bring your own supper. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

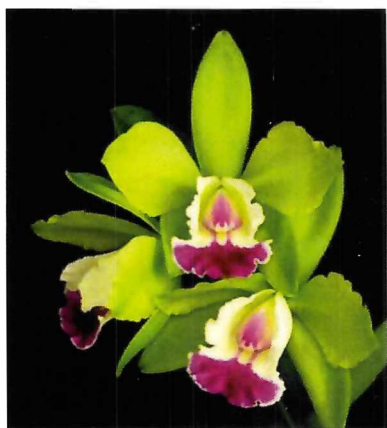
Why orchids, and when did this passion for them develop?

“I started growing run-of-the mill plants when I was about 6. When I was 8, my Dad got me interested in orchids with a cymbidium (right),”

Albrecht said. Unlike with some kids, Albrecht totally embraced growing orchids and has stuck with them.

“I am turning 51 this year, so I have been growing all kinds of orchids for more than 40 years,” Albrecht said. He has more than 2,000 orchid plants of many varieties and from “adults to seedlings,” in his 14 x 20-foot greenhouse in Loomis.

Is a greenhouse a must for growing orchids?

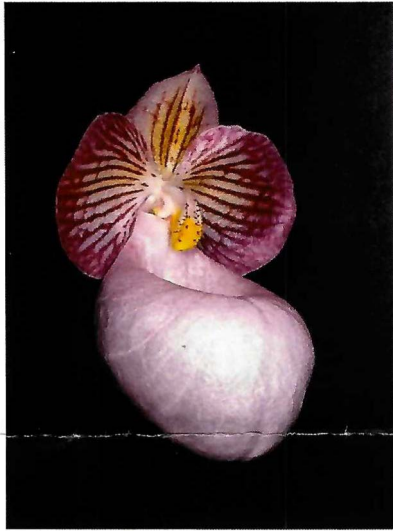


“Not at all. They really are not fussy. They can be raised in a bathroom! The only real requirement is that you have to control the relative humidity of their environment. That can be done in a lot of different and easy ways: With a humidity tray, a fogger and double potting, among others.”

(Continued, next page)



Any one favorite orchid in his collection?



“I have many I love, but not one in particular. Some of the purple and pink flowers have a leg up on the competition, and three slipper orchids, such as the *Paphiopedilum micranthum*, (left) that is overall pink with a big pouch.

Another favorite is a *Phragmipedium* (below) that I saw for the first time on a trip to Ecuador. I was in love with it the minute I saw this native of Peru and Ecuador. I guess it is my number one, even though it is red. My main interest now, though, is in the more odd and interesting varieties – ones that are stranger -- with little flowers that look like insects,” he said. It is more than a hobby for him. He is a recognized orchid expert, an *orchidist* who serves as an accredited judge for the American Orchid Society.

The 100-year-old organization has more than 10,000 members, worldwide.

Albrecht supports his orchid growing hobby by designing, installing and maintaining aquariums and outdoor ponds in Northern California. His Loomis company is Sublime Aquarium Care.

Albrecht admits there are some orchids that are “impossible to grow in captivity.”

“For sure, there are some plants that are difficult but they are ones that should never be taken out of the jungle and exported because they are doomed from the get go. They should be preserved in their native environment.”



PLEASE NOTE: Members are welcome to bring an orchid to the meeting, to exhibit or if they need help with a problem, Albrecht said he will be happy to look at plants to see what might be wrong. “If you think your plant is sick or has bugs, please bring them in a sealed plastic bag so that whatever is wrong will not be passed on to others’ plants,” Albrecht stressed.



Donate items for the Shepard Spring Sale Coming Up Soon!

Time has come for the Garden Club's participation at the annual Spring Sale to be held March 14 and 15, at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 Mckinley Blvd., Sacramento. Hours of the sale will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 14. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 15.

This event raises funds for activities held by our Club. Sales items are donated by members and friends to sell for profit. We need donations of

plants and pots for planting (we're a garden club!), plus jewelry and any garden-related décor items and tools.

The Fall Sale in October was a big success. Our lively booth at the Shepard sale in October, shown above. Popular items were plants, pots for planting and jewelry.

Items being donated should be brought to:

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 Mckinley Blvd.,
Friday, March 9, (Set Up Day)
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Any questions? Please call:

Lynn McCormack 916-455-4159
Jeannette Nardinelli 916-451-4658



*Be a leader!

The search for officer candidates for our 2026-2027 season is on. The club's Nominating Committee is searching for members interested in participating as an officer of the club, namely President and Vice President.

Please call committee chairperson Jeannette Nardinelli to nominate someone and for more information, at 916-451-4658.

*Welcome New Members

Recent new members are Wendy Vismara, Debbie and Jim Struven, and Shelly and Patrick Coyne. We'll look forward to seeing you at our meetings and other activities.

Holiday Brunch Bunch

During the December holiday season, the club sponsored a well-



attended Holiday Brunch. Looks like everyone had fun!

PLEASE NOTE: The club's annual "Special Garden Spaces" Neighborhood garden tour will not be presented this April. The tour will be on hiatus until the club finds a new chairperson for it. Call club president Pat Smith if you are interested in taking on the position for next year: 916-454-5637