

The BackBulb

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

August 2009 ■



August Speaker: Bruce Rogers

Sobralias and other Stories

According to Bruce, he will give a rare public talk on the genus Sobralia. Those of us who have ever talked to Bruce know well that he will talk at length to anyone about Sobralias, one of his favorite orchid genera!.

Bruce has always had a passion for the plant kingdom, growing plants as a hobbyist from an early age. He began working professionally with orchids in the late seventies when he was hired by the City of Atlanta, GA Parks Department working in Piedmont Park's orchid greenhouses. Returning to San Francisco after this very successful endeavor, he was promptly hired by the Rod McLellan Company with two functions: head grower for their boarding department, and to work on Vanda hybridization. At that time, Rod McLellan was major force in the orchid world and the association with this company led to many great opportunities. In the early eighties Bruce left to start Bruce Rogers Orchids, a orchid consulting and management company, and a few years later, Rogers-Fishman Boarding, A orchid boarding company in San Francisco. In the commercial world, he has consulted and worked with major companies, department stores, and civic groups both nationally and internationally. In the private sector he has had the opportunity to work with many interesting and influential people. He has designed and created Orchid Gardens in private homes from Marin to Santa Barbara.

Bruce has been growing and hybridizing Sobralias for many years. In 2002 Bruce, got together with Terry Root (well known as owner of the Orchid Zone) to form Oz Gardens, a wholesale nursery specializing in Sobralias. Their work has led to a wider selection of Sobralia for different climate zones, and an

The August meeting is on **Monday August 3rd 7PM**. At the **Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula**, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

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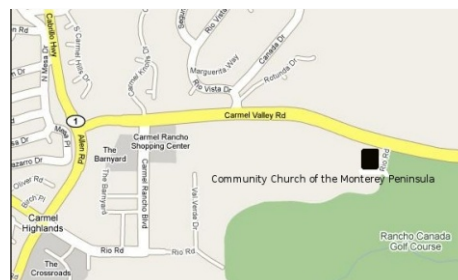
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expanded blooming season.

Sobralias are giants of the Orchid World in both size of plant and flower. Sobralias can be a fantastic plant suitable outside culture in the Bay area. Growing superbly in both pots and beds in the garden, they bloom easily in the late spring to early fall. Few orchids approach the beauty and allurements of Sobralias.

Meeting Location

We meet at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, which is 1 mile East of Highway One at 4590 Carmel Valley Road. If you are coming from Hwy. 1 turn right at the Rancho Canada turnoff and turn right at the end of the drive.



If anyone can't drive at night, but would still like to attend our monthly meetings, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Jackie Kinney (601-4935). She will try to help arrange a ride for you.

Goodies For the August meeting: Carolyn Salmon, Nancy Greenebaum, Janette Ford, Emelita Harvey, Kathie Ritter will provide the goodies for your culinary pleasure, and raffle tickets.



now look at this...



This is a cool plant...



It's easy...really

Carol's Commentary

It is hard to believe that Summer is nearly half over and it is time for our Orchid Fest and Summer BBQ. If you haven't made your reservations for the August 29th Event at the Carmel Valley Community Center in Carmel Valley Village, please send me your money and reservation form as soon as possible. We would like to have everyone's reservations in by August 15 so that we know how much food, etc, to buy. Shirley West and Mimi Schramm will be calling you to ask you to bring a salad or dessert for the BBQ

We will have a wonderful plant table for the Silent Auction as well as an opportunity for you to purchase some of Jim Nybakken's plants. The proceeds from the sale of Jim's plants will go to his Scholarship Fund at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. This is your chance to obtain some really special or hard to find plants. We may be able to send out a list of plants from Jim's collection via email ahead of time so that you will know what is available.

Please don't forget to send in your reservations so that you can join us for an great afternoon of food, fun and orchids on August 29th.

Carol

In Memoriam

Our sincere condolences to Susan Phillips on the loss of her Mother last month.

Upcoming Events

August

8/3 Monday 7PM COS August meeting, speaker: Bruce Rogers, Sobralia expert and funny guy.

8/8 California, Sierra Nevada Judging Center Speakers Day. Sacramento CA. Roy Tokunaga, H & R Nurseries, Understanding Dendrobiums, their variety & culture; Ron McHatton, Director of Education for the AOS, Simplified Orchid Genetics for the General Grower; Carlos Fighetti, President of the AOS, Taiwan, Fantastic Modern Phalaenopsis.

8/15 Deadline for reservations for Summer Orchid Fest

8/20 COS Board Meeting: Place to be determined 6PM

8/29 Saturday COS Summer Orchid Fest.

September

There will be no regular or board COS meetings in September.

Summer Orchid Fest

When: Saturday August 29th 1PM

Where: At the Carmel Village Community Center.

Directions: From Highway 1 & Carmel Valley Road go 11.2 miles Southeast on Carmel Valley Road. Turn left onto Ford Road and drive 0.1 mile East on Ford Road then turn right into the parking lot for the Carmel Valley Community Center

Food! BBQ tri-tip, chicken, beans, garlic bread, a variety of drinks, and more.

Silent Orchid Auction: Blooming plants, plus some special plants from Jim Nybakken's collection will be available.

Cost: \$10 per person.

Action needed: Send your reservation form with your money to Carol at: Box A, Carmel CA 93921 no later than August 15th.

Summer Orchid Fest Reservation Form

Yes! I will be attending the Summer Orchid Fest, BBQ and Silent Auction at the Carmel Valley Village Community Center on August 29, 2009 at 1 pm.

Please reserve the following for me:

Members at \$10 Guests at \$10 each

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

If you can help with either setup or cleanup, please indicate below. Your help will be much appreciated. The Community Center requires that we cleanup after ourselves.

Setup at 11:30 am Cleanup

Please return this form, with your check, to: Carol Easton, Box A, Carmel CA 93921
phone: 831-625-1565 **no later than August 15, 2009**

Directions:

From Highway 1 & Carmel Valley Road go 11.2 miles Southeast on Carmel Valley Road. Turn left onto Ford Road and drive 0.1 mile East on Ford Road then turn right into the parking lot for the Carmel Valley Community Center.

Orchid Talk

Let me start this month's discussion with a short pep talk. A number of people have commented to me with phrases like " I have given up on orchids. I always kill them." These folks may otherwise be accomplished

gardeners or plant lovers at the very least. So where have most people acquired their orchids? Supermarkets, farmers markets or friends who had finished out the bloom already, Or they may have attended an orchid show, purchased a plant knowing nothing about it's growing requirements or understanding the environment they have at home to keep them healthy. It is a recipe for failure unless pure luck is on your side. This is not to say that what I call mass market orchids don;t have a real place in the scheme of things. But understanding the goals of these large growers may help. In the most basic terms, they want you to purchase a blooming orchid, enjoy the blooms in your home and then **THROW THE PLANT AWAY...**so

you will soon purchase another one. No one is selling you their breeding plants with their prized genetics and strong life force. The price is your first clue. With some exceptions such as paphiopetalums, these orchids are cloned and clones of clones with runs in the hundreds of thousands. Life

begins in huge labs located in Taiwan or India as it is most cost effective. Plants are returned here and speed is the name of the game. These orchids are bred to bloom as soon as possible out of the flask. They are grown in warm days and nights with lots of light and constant fertilizer, custom



formulated to meet the plants optimal growth. You then purchase this blooming orchid, take it home to a new environment, new water, food, temperatures etc. These factors alone can cause stress, plus the energy it took to bloom in the first place. We expect this orchid to thrive and grow gangbusters after it has been through all this.....What it may need is a rest, lower light, light fertilizer repotting out of that tiny rootbound pot. Remember you are supposed to throw it away! So what is my point in all this??? **DO NOT JUDGE YOUR OWN ABILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW ORCHIDS BASED ON PLANTS PURCHASED FROM THE MASS MARKET.** A great way to begin is by joining an orchid society. Members are always giving plants away. These orchids are

usually already acclimated to our local conditions either outdoors or in the home or greenhouse. The plants don't go through the same stress with a radical change in environment. Take the time to figure out what your growing environment is and learn what orchids will grow

continued next page.

Orchid Talk, continued from last page.

most easily there. Many orchids are very widespread in nature and tolerant of a wide range of conditions and are just plain sturdy.. Dendrobium kingianums and epidendron radicans come to mind. Ask your fellow hobyist. We have probably killed many more orchids than you. We just kept going.

I found a couple websites I wanted to share with you. Both offer orchids for sale, but www.cloudsorchids.com. also contains lots of cultural information as well. www.mountainorchids.com. sells many uncommon species orchids for the discerning collector.



We are in midsummer now so some of the usual reminders. Mealy bugs and aphids are reproducing like crazy now, so even if you don't see them, keep up your spraying routines. Come fall, you will be glad you did. For those of you that have some of the pansy orchids, miltoniopsis, they do like to be repotted once a year and the time do do that is in the fall. Keep removing the old brown leaf parts from the base of the pseudobulbs to avoid rot.

To keep this column relevant, I invite you to email me with specific questions or topics you would like me to address in the future.

Carolyn Salmon

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

2009 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Jaclyn Kinney 1381 Bales Ct. Seaside, CA 93955

Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

If you were referred by a current member, please provide

his/her name _____

Renewal New Member

Member of the American Orchid Society

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter	
	Via E-Mail	Via US Mail
Single	\$20	\$25
Couple	\$30	\$35
Vendor	\$30	\$35

The Orchidist

An Ode to James

He is of an odd and curious type -
that solitary sort, content to contemplate
an international case of charges.
From test tube babies to robust adults,
he rears them.

Years in the making, no instant gratification here;
water and nourishment
protecting them from all maladies
what might befall them
till that first blossom appears,
then opens.

A moment no less thrilling
that the first,
he never tires of it.
Showing to all,
as proud as any father
but just as pleased, if by his visage only.

There are comrades, too, that share his passion.
The true, alas, are always few in number.

His orchids now set ex situ
in their artificial canopy,
safe from a habitat
that is no longer.

And when the greenhouse door
is pulled tight,
a small slice of the natural world
is preserved
for another lifetime.

D. Morgan Wenzler

June 22, 2009



A couple more pictures from the July meeting.



Advertise in the BackBulb

If you have a business, or just want to advertise your yard sale, this may be the place. The COS is now accepting advertising in the BackBulb. Circulation is mainly to our members and visitors, around 100 copies per month. The rates are: \$5 quarter page, \$10 half page, and \$20 for a full page. If you are interested contact the BackBulb editor, John OConnell johnoconnell19@att.net.

And now a word from our sponsors...

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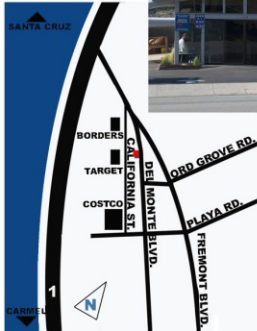
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