

The BackBulb

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

May 2011



It's Show Time!

The planning has been done, lists have been made, vendors contacted, speakers lined up, there are just a few missing details, a few last minute items that we need to make this years show the big success that everyone knows it can be. Success is important, not just because all of us like a good orchid show, but because the financial well being of the society depends on it. Dues cover just a small amount of our expenses, the rest comes from the show. A successful show will pay for the great speakers and subsidize all the raffle tables for the coming year. So now is the time to help with the last few details and the last minute items. Then come and enjoy the show!

There is no May meeting, the next meeting is on **Monday June 6th, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

Here is what you can do:

- ✿ We are having a wonderful silent auction. Please **donate gently used or new items**, a gift certificate from your favorite hair stylist, massage therapist, restaurant, hotel, etc... Bring your items to Hidden Valley on Friday.
- ✿ The wine barrel raffle was sooooo successful last year that we would be silly not to do this again. AND, we are adding a premium beer barrel. Please **donate a bottle of good wine** or a couple of bottles of premium beer. If you are not sure what to buy, just donate \$10.00 and I will select the libation for you. Bring your bottles (or cash) to Hidden Valley on Friday.
- ✿ **Volunteering your time** is ALWAYS needed. Pick a day and

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cvgardenshow.com
Carmel Valley Garden Show
May 7&8 9am to 4pm Hidden Valley Institute

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time and call Joanie at **595-4456**.

✿ We need your **blooming orchids** for the exhibit. Bring them to Hidden Valley starting Friday after lunch.

As you can see a lot will be happening on Friday, But the fun really gets going on Saturday with a all the exhibits, vendors, food, drink, and more. I hope to see you there!



Left: Deric "This is a very cool Australian Dendrobium"

Center: Carolyn "These Masdevallia's are just divine!"

Right: Joanie "Restrepia's, vintage Cabernet, ummm!"

Upcoming Events

May

5/1 "The Ups and Downs of Hillside Gardening," a self-guided tour of eight fabulous Oakland gardens. Ann Livingston at (510) 708-7008

5/7-8 Carmel Valley Garden Show, This is it, it's show time!

June

6/3 San Jose Orchid Exposition Preview Party

6/4-5 San Jose Orchid Exposition

6/6 Monday COS meeting

6/20 COS board meeting.

Membership Has it's Privileges...

Maybe you have noticed that more people are coming to the meetings the last few months. Maybe you have noticed that there are more new faces. While we all welcome the visitors, some board members questions the practice of selling them raffle tickets. You see, the society subsidizes the raffle tables. We rarely sell more than \$150 of raffle tickets and the average raffle table costs us \$300. The board has discussed the amount spent on the raffle tables on more than one occasion and has always decided to keep subsidizing them as a benefit to the membership. Given the increased number of visitors, this led to a discussion of whether visitors should be able to buy raffle tickets. The decision was to limit raffle ticket sales to members. So starting in June we will be limiting the sale of raffle tickets to members. Other benefits of membership include discounts on social events (like the upcoming greenhouse trip) and the ability to sell plants at our membership sales table at the show. We want to encourage our visitors to join (dues are so reasonable!) so they can enjoy all the benefits of membership.

Membership also has responsibilities.

Starting in June we will start asking a quarter of the membership (as determined by the position of your name in the alphabet A-F in June) to bring refreshments to the meeting. This should prevent the current situation where one or two of the board members bring refreshments to every meeting.

John



John at the "Smart Gardening Fair"



Paul Gripp explaining...

Orchid Talk

Judging from the wonderful Show 'N Tell orchids members brought to our April meeting....spring has arrived! There are several members who could be showing me how to grow orchids. But I will continue anyway. I think we have such a wide variety of blooming orchids here because we have so many different micro climates that will support different species outdoors or in our homes or greenhouses.

I know we have had this discussion before, but since it is May, we should talk about cymbidiums. This is the best month to repot them. Most have finished blooming and the new growths are still small. Many of the spikes are going to come from the new growths if you can get them to maturity by August or September when they set

their buds. The trigger is those still warm days, but cooler, longer nights. I don't think cyms are too fussy about mixes as long as it drains well. Both orchid soil and orchid bark mixes are available. I do have one cym given to me that is in the soil mix.

In my cooler climate, I water it half as often as I do the cyms in my typical medium bark/perlite/small lava rock mix. For folks living in the warmer inland climates, I say use fine bark

instead of the medium. The miniature cyms tend to be more heat tolerant than the larger varieties. Most of my cyms get a couple hours of sun each day, but out in Carmel Valley, dappled shade is probably best. I am often asked how to repot those huge cyms in those half wine barrels. I have a easy way to shorten the process and save your back. Typically the majority of dormant bulbs are in the center and the leafy parts are hanging over the edge or close to it. Whack off those outermost green pieces in 4-5 bulb bunches. Pot them up in 1-2 gallon pots and toss that huge barrel away! That is where the resident slugs are hiding anyway. Cyms benefit from a two inch layer of styrofoam peanuts in the bottom to improve drainage. You can add that weed-stop fabric to the bottom of the pot to inhibit slugs from making

their home inside too. It keeps your deck cleaner as well. Water thoroughly and then leave the cym on the dry side for ten days or so. Water well again and then start fertilizing regularly 2-3 times a month until October. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer like a 30-10-10,

If you wish to maximize spiking in the fall, rotate your plants toward the sun weekly to even out light exposure.

The masdevallia coccineas will be



A Cymbidium from the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.

blooming now for the next few weeks. Their tall spikes come in whites, hot pinks and butter yellows. My yellows are the earliest to bloom. I hope they are still nice for our orchid display at the garden show. I am watering these masdevallias every three or four days so they stay consistently moist. I have taken almost all of mine out of sphagnum moss. It has proven too difficult to re-hydrate it, if it dries out too much. I fertilize them with about one quarter strength balanced fertilizer at least twice a month now. They are very light feeders and will burn easily. They grow on the cloud forest floor, but seem to take a little bit of sun. They do not like the heat at all. Much over 75 degrees and their growth stops. They will show delayed heat stress and start dropping leaves all at one time!

The summer blooming cattleys are in sheath and bud now. Resist the temptation to repot them unless the new roots are showing on the newer growths. There are basically two rooting habits for catts - root before bloom and root after bloom. In nature, the roots come out to catch the rainy season which can be in the fall.

Our last two speakers pointed out that orchids do not grow in pots in nature. Most of the orchids we like are tropical plants that are epiphytic or lithophytes.

Roots hang in the air, hug a tree limb or grow over rocky crevices. Hmm...no mix involved. My latest project is to mount more of my orchids weekly. I am currently working on my draculas because they seem to hate every pot or mix I have had them in. I want to see flowers!

So to summarize, step into high gear now. Water, fertilize and repot like crazy and go after those pesky pests. Your orchids will reward you. Show off your blooming orchids in our display at the garden show.

Carolyn



A Chinese Cymbidium from the Santa Barbara Show

Show Off Your Green Thumb & Beautiful Blooms this year at the Monterey County Fair!

Show off at the 75th Annual Monterey County Fair this year which will be held August 31-September 5, 2011! We are very interested in displaying a wide array of entries in our Flower and Garden Display area which will be revamped by Fair-time! The garden area will be receiving a much needed upgrade with the garden plots being redone with stone surrounds, filled with new soil and additional lighting! This area is going to be a lovely retreat for fair patrons to sit back and admire the wonderful gardens while enjoying a corndog.

Here's the perfect opportunity for professional and non-professional gardeners to showcase their floral talents and there are many opportunities for competitors to enter. Additionally, there will be many knowledgeable garden related exhibitors in the Fair's Garden Area. Fair attendees can also see exhibits of new and unusual gardening techniques. The Water Awareness Committee of Monterey County, Inc. will host its 7th annual Water Wise Landscape Design Awards at the 2011 Fair, sponsoring additional awards. We have something for everyone with some of our garden divisions including Club Gardens, Commercial Gardens, and Wheelbarrow Gardens now with larger garden plots.

The Monterey County Fair's Floriculture and Garden Departments welcome your entries between May 1 and August 8, 2011. Detailed simple entry instructions will be available on the website, www.montereycountyfair.com or exhibit entry guides



One of Paul's Sarcochilus, from the April meeting.

will be available at the Fair office at 2004 Fairgrounds Road, between 9 AM - 5 PM (closed Noon to 1 PM) during the week.

Call (831) 372-5863 if you have any questions! We very much appreciate your support of the Monterey County Fair!

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

Print this page for your CVGS member plant sales tags. Fill out 1 tag per plant and attach to the plant. Use the "plant id" field to give each plant a unique code, so you know what you sold.

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Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Sharon Ashton 26966 Laureles Grade Road Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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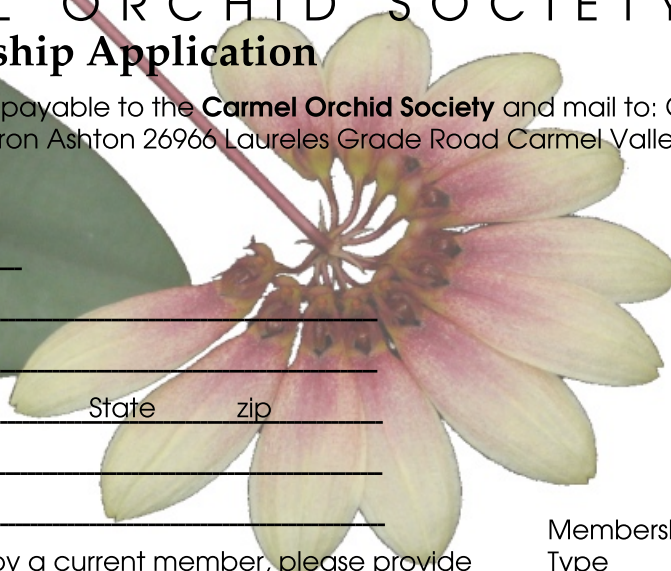
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If you were referred by a current member, please provide his/her name _____

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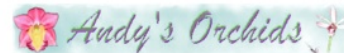
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FROM US-101 North: Take I-880 South toward Santa Cruz - Take the Downtown N.
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