

The BackBulb

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

May 2012

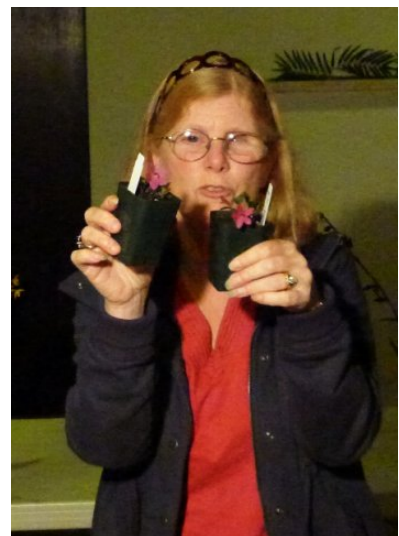


May Meeting: A Little Bit of Culture

But only a little, since there's not time for a lot. Both John and Carolyn could speak for hours on the subject, but that would take all night and then there wouldn't be time for the snacks (letters S through Z, you know who you are) or the raffle table. So they will hit the highlights including everyone's favorite repotting! John promises to bring something to divide and pot, and some of the divisions will be given away. And don't forget fertilizer! Of course water, light, temperature, pots, potting mixes, and mounting... You see, we couldn't call this "All About Orchid Culture", but if you come to enough meetings you may be exposed to "Quite a Bit About Orchid Culture".

The next meeting is on **Monday May 7th, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

In order to provide a better selection of treats at our meetings, the board is asking members with last names that start with the letter **S thru Z** to **bring refreshments** to our May meeting. There is a raffle ticket in it for you, buy the way.



Two of our best orchid growers, Emelita (left) and Carolyn (above).

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P.O. Box 223462
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CA 93922-3462

Upcoming Events

May

5/5-6 Carmel Valley Garden Show

5/7 Monday, COS May Meeting. Orchid Culture, Repotting and Care.

5/12 Saturday Orchid Happy Hour 4-6PM at John's House.

June

6/1-3 San Jose Orchid Exposition. Gala Friday 5:30

6/4 Monday COS June meeting. 7PM.

6/9 Saturday 11AM, COS Potting Party, Carol's House.

Mingle...

And we have several events to mingle at. First up is the **Carmel Valley Garden Show (CVGS) on May 5th and 6th**. CVGS is once again holding a gala on Saturday night. We will be selling orchids at this years CVGS, come by and pick a few up, or there is no better way to get to know your fellow COS members then to volunteer for the booth, **we need people to help customers and talk about orchids!** It doesn't have to be much time, just an hour or two sometime during the weekend. Call or email Janette Ford (<http://carmelorchidsociety.org/membership.html>).

On **Monday the 7th** after the show we have our **May meeting "A Little Bit of Culture"**, Learn how to take care of those plant you bought at the show. See the first page for details.

On **Saturday May 12th we are having our years first Orchid Happy Hour** at John's house (1697 Luzern St. Seaside, email me if you need directions). Bring something to drink or a light snack. Come see the "tanks".

In June Carol is hosting our almost annual Potting Party. More about that in the June BackBulb.

John

Humidity

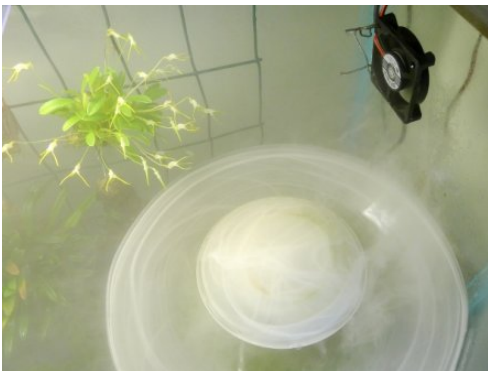
It's been a dry winter. It seems like I have seen humidity readings below 40% as often as I have seen them above. The low humidity has left a swath of shriveled pseudobulbs and accordion pleated leaves. But I have a bunch of plants that are not suffering, they are the ones in the "tanks".



The original 20 gallon "tank". There was 3 inches of water in the bottom with an ultrasonic fogger. A clip-on light and fan above the tank with no cover.



The second tank, 50 gallons wide and long. This one was free too. The fogger has been moved to overhead so that the fog flows down into the tank. Still using clip-on lights, fan and no cover.



The fogger dish and 2" computer fan. Note the wildly blooming mini Masdevalia.



The current setup. The fogger and fan are inside the loosely covered tank.



Cammie was given this patio greenhouse and I put it in the garage near the big grow light. A little standing water in the bottom and a clip-on light in the top and it stays warm and humid.



The original tank, no fogger or fan but now with a cover and some water in the bottom. This tank has enough height for a couple of small Draculas.

A few pointers:

- * Ultrasonic foggers start at around \$25 (I have ordered them from <http://www.mainlandmart.com/foggers.html>).
- * A small computer fan of around 25-40mm diameter will move enough air for a small tank and are inexpensive. The problem is adapting the connector to a 12v power supply, it takes minor surgery or a bit of ingenuity.
- * If you use a fogger, water will collect in the bottom of the tank, all the pots should be an inch or so above the bottom.
- + Algae becomes a problem in a month or two. You just need to pull everything out and clean it. Physan or bleach kills it, but it will only come back, so just mop up all that green water when it starts looking bad.
- * Only run the fogger a couple of hours a day. More than that and things get very wet and your fogger runs out of water very quickly.

John

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2012 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Carol Easton, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

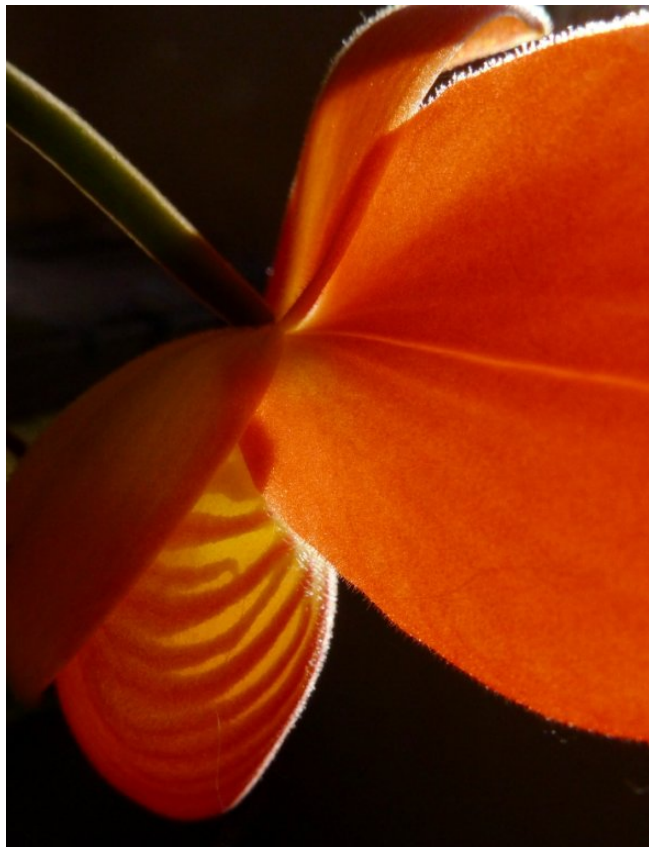
If you were referred by a current member, please provide

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 |



Maxillarias love the humidity of the tanks.

Phrag. besseae is amazing with the light behind it.

Selling Plants at CVGS

1. Make sure your plant is saleable. This is not the place to get rid of distressed diseased or infested plants. Clean them and their pots up.
2. If the plant is not in bloom, print a picture of the bloom. Pictures sell plants!
3. Fill out one label for each plant. Set a realistic, not optimistic price. Remember the society gets 20% of the sale price for sales tax and our trouble.
4. Bring your plants down Saturday morning before 9AM.

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| tape to plant | COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____ | Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____ |
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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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SAN JOSE ORCHID EXPOSITION ⁷

Preview Night Evening
Appetizers Catered by
The Award-Winning
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ORCHID GROWING SKILL SESSIONS

Saturday & Sunday,
June 2-3, 2012
11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Hang out
with our
Cool
Green
Friends

ORCHID CONSERVATION ALLIANCE BENEFIT

Friday
June 1, 2012
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

ORCHID SALES & WINE TASTING

Friday
June 1, 2012
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Saturday
June 2, 2012
9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday
June 3, 2012
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PREVIEW NIGHT

Friday, June 1, 2012 6:30 PM-9:30 PM
WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE®

525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose, CA 95128

\$10.00 admission per person is donated to the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Vendors pay the sales tax on the Preview Night Evening.

Event Website www.realorchidgrowers.com
Find Real Orchid Growers on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Winchester Mystery House®