

The BackBulb

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

February 2014



February Speaker: Samantha Kha-Root

Along the Yellow Brick Road

Samantha has been interested in growing plants since she was a small child when she loved raising flowers and vegetables from seed. Her interest in plants led her to explore cacti and succulent plants. Then, over 15 years ago, she became interested in orchids. Today, Samantha grows orchids and also has a very extensive collection of succulent plants, mainly from South Africa.

Samantha became enamored with slipper orchids early on. She has put together an extensive collection of Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, primarily focusing on species. She started making Paphiopedilum crosses about 13 years ago and has raised and flowered many of her own crosses. For the past 10 years she has been making Paphiopedilum crosses for The Orchid Zone, using the Zone's extensive breeding collection. She and Terry Root own and operate the Orchid Zone.

The Orchid Zone is located in the hills of the Monterey Peninsula, and is mostly known for Paphiopedilums. Not as well known is the Zone's cultivation of many other genera as well, including Odontoglossums, Miltoniopsis, Masdevallias, Phragmipediums, and Zygopetalums.

This month's meeting is on **Monday February 3rd, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.



- 1 February Meeting
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 President's Corner
- 4 COS Board minutes

In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **A thru F** to **bring refreshments** to the next meeting.

COS Officers

President

Kathie Ritter

VP Program,

BackBulb Editor,

Webmaster

John OConnell

Recording

Secretary

Janette Ford

Treasurer

Daniel Bellem

Directors

Carol Easton

Lesley Olsen

Jeanette Brown

Lory Schluenz

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Carmel

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Upcoming Events

February

2/1-2 Sonoma Co. orchid Society Annual Show and Sale. Santa Rosa.

2/3 Monday COS February Meeting: Samantha Kha

2/17 COS Board meeting, Carols house.

2/20-23 Pacific Orchid Exposition, Orchids And All That Jazz, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

March

3/3 Monday COS Meeting

3/14-16 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Earl Warren Show Grounds, Santa Barbara

3/29-30, 2014 -- Sacramento Orchid Society 66th Annual Show and Sale, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento



Scott Collins and one of his incredible Lycastes.

President's Corner

Sustainability and conservation. Arguably, two of the popular culture's current catchwords. While a cynic might say there is more lip service than action taken in the name of sustainability and conservation, it does appear that more and more we as a society are taking steps, even if small, to maintain and protect the web of life that is our natural environment. The numbers of people I encounter who are composting, shopping at farmer's markets, sourcing where their food comes from, turning their gardens over to native plants, collecting rain water, becoming vegans, putting in solar, buying hybrid or electric cars seems to be escalating quickly. A few years ago, doing any of the above would raise the "that's pretty weird" eyebrow. Today, not so much so.

As a society of orchid growers, one of our primary goals is to educate and inspire ourselves and others to promote the preservation of orchids and orchid habitats. Yes, our mission is to sustain and conserve orchids which most of the time means we collect love and nurture them. We also create opportunities to inspire others to gain a deeper appreciation of orchids, their wide range of disparate habitats, their myriad forms, shapes, colors, and scents, the roles they play in feeding pollinators, and the everyday basics of keeping them alive and getting them to bloom. This year we will have two big opportunities to spread the word outside our membership.

The first will be the 2014 Smart Gardening Fair - Saturday, April 5th, 9

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the fair held on State property next to Highway 1 in front of the Cross Roads Shopping Center (Safeway etc.) in Carmel. It is the event put together by Master Gardeners that we have had a booth at in previous years. We will have a member plant sale section alongside plants we will purchase for sale. This is a money making event for COS but just as importantly it is an opportunity to talk to others about orchids. Please put the date on your calendar, tell your friends about it and carve out some time to help out at the event. It is a easy fun event to work on. We will have signups for buying the orchids, setup, tear down and working the booth etc.

The second will be our own Fall Orchid Festival - Saturday November 8th, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It may be possible

for us to make it a 2 day event, in which case the dates will be the 7th and the 8th. We will have member plants sales, vendor sales, and a silent auction. Help will be needed to make it successful. Please start plugging it



Keep close tabs on those raffle tickets!

and putting aside great items for the silent auction.

Orchids speak for themselves: they are just plain gorgeous and interesting. Yet, it never hurts to have some great stories to tell about orchids to engage people. If you have stories, please let Lory Schluenz (lorayne98@gmail.com) or Carolyn Salmon (cargie@yahoo.com) know about them so she can put them on our Facebook page – have you looked at the page? They do a great job with it.

My current favorite story is about bucket orchids (*Coryanthes Specioses*). They look a lot like *Stanhopea*. The so called bucket fills with a sweet-scented viscous liquid. Male bees are attracted by the scent of the liquid as well as by the oils on a shelf above the well of liquid. An iridescent euglossine bee lands on the slippery shelf, mucks his legs up with the oil and in the process often falls into the bucket. (Dabbing oil on his legs is meant to attract females to him.) He either drowns or manages to climb up toe holds through a narrow opening at the base of the lip. As the bee squeezes into the opening the orchid automatically clamps down on the bee (the opening is a hinged column carrying two pollinia). The bee may be held for as much as 45 minutes in the

Scott Collins
with one of his
odontoglossums.



orchid's "vice" squirming to free itself and simultaneously getting pollinia on its back. Once the pollinia are deposited on the bee, the orchid relaxes and the bee flies free. If all goes well the bee will travel on to another bucket orchid and deposit the pollinia on its stigma – pollinating that orchid. And the bee will smell so good it will find a great mate. Clever orchid, clever nature!

If you have not made arrangements to go to POE (the Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco at Fort Mason February 20 – 23) you may go on line to get tickets (cheaper than at the door) www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

Also keep in mind the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show March 14 – 16. Just got word that Cal Orchid sustained a serious fire. Just how much damage was done and how that will affect their business and participation in shows is not known yet. We'll try to keep you posted. I know Cal Orchid is a favorite greenhouse/grower of many. We wish them speedy recovery.

Kathie

COS Board of Directors Meeting Jan. 13, 2014

Members Present: John O'Connell, Kathie Ritter, Janette Ford, Daniel Bellem, Carol Easton, Lory Schluenz, and Lesley Olsen. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Kathie's house.

Previous Minutes: Daniel moved, Lory seconded to approve minutes from the November meeting; approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at the beginning of November was \$7539.52; at the end of the month balance was \$8965.87. For December beginning balance was \$8965.87 and \$8862.29 at the end of the month. Lory moved, John seconded that we accept treasurer's report.

VP Report: John has scheduled Samantha Kha from Orchid Zone to be at our meeting in February. He said that Scott Collins has agreed to be a speaker sometime. Since John has not heard back from other speakers he has contacted, he said he could speak to us about building a greenhouse in either March or April and maybe Scott could speak the other month. John has also thought about the possibility of having a tour of COS member greenhouses. He suggested that it might be nice to make it open to the public in order to get more interest in the society. But the logistics (publicity, parking, making addresses of greenhouse owners known) of inviting anyone seemed rather daunting. Instead, we may make the invitation to local garden groups. Kathie asked John to find out who might be interested in opening their greenhouse and when the best time might be, and we will discuss it at another meeting.

New Business: The Smart Garden Fair is scheduled for April 5 this year. Kathie will

submit request and payment for one booth space. Daniel and Carol will be out of town that weekend, so other members will be needed especially for set up and take down. The hours of the fair are 9:00 - 3:00. Daniel will check the size and condition of the pop up tent we currently have to make sure it is usable. COS will plan to sell orchid plants at the event, and members are welcome to sell plants also (members get 75% of sale, COS gets 25%). Orchid plants will be purchased at Baybreeze before the 5th. Any unsold plants will be put on the raffle table for our meeting on April 7.

We talked about advertising for the Smart Garden Fair and other activities. Lory has kept information posted on Facebook. We would like to get help from other COS members who are internet knowledgeable and have time to help with this.

We selected the date of November 8 (Saturday) for an orchid show. Kathie will submit a proposal to the Community Church for a two day show: 9:00 - 4:00 both Friday and Saturday. That would include a set up day or at least a half day on Thursday.

The next board meeting will be Feb. 17 at Carol's house.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Ford



Laelia furfuracea, one of the last of John's *Laelias* to bloom.

Membership Time!

It's that time again, time for your otherwise nice, friendly society board members to nag you about paying your membership dues. As much as we would like to have your money to pay for our fabulous monthly speakers, what we really want is for you to come hear the speakers, buy the raffle tickets and take home all the interesting plants on our monthly raffle tables. None of that will happen if you are not interested enough to pay the pittance we ask for or yearly dues. Most orchids that we will kill in less than a year cost more than a years membership! So all we ask is that you pay your dues, come to the meetings and have a wonderful time!

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2014 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 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>



Cymbidium erythrostylum by Sally Robertson

ORCHIDS and all that **JAZZ**

SAN FRANCISCO ORCHID SOCIETY'S 62ND ANNUAL

PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION

GALA BENEFIT PREVIEW THURS. FEBRUARY 20, 6:30- 10:00 PM

SHOW & PLANT SALE • FEBRUARY 21 - 23, 2014

FRIDAY 10AM-6PM • SATURDAY 9AM-6PM • SUNDAY 10AM-5PM

FESTIVAL PAVILION • FORT MASON CENTER • SAN FRANCISCO

Admission \$13 online/\$15 at door, Seniors \$10 online/\$12 at door, Gala \$40 online/\$45 at door. 16 years & under Free accompanied w/adult (except Gala)
Special discounts on the website. Parking available at Marina Middle School, Sat & Sun, entrance on Bay between Moscone Park & the school. Complimentary shuttle.

For Tickets & Information please visit

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

Additional Information: The Larose Group 650-548-6700

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Sonoma County Orchid Society

PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

"ORCHIDS IN THE REDWOODS"



February 1 - 2, 2014

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm

Admission \$8.00



Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
(Across from the Fairgrounds)
www.sonomaorchids.com