

The BackBulb

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

April 2014



April Speaker: John O'Connell

Get Out of The House!

Sooner or later all orchid addicts dream of a place beyond their window sill, a place with abundant light, high humidity, and space for plants with 8' spikes. We all dream of owning a greenhouse one day. The challenges and choices are many, and it takes time, money and some ingenuity to overcome them. But the rewards are well worth the trouble, Lot's of light, decent humidity, and space for 8' spikes (maybe). "Get Out of the House" is about John's greenhouse experience, it wasn't too hard or too expensive.

It all started innocently enough when I was given an orchid as a house warming present. It would be ten years before that first orchid bloomed again. along the way that first Cattleya was joined by first a Phalaenopsis then, upon discovering the Atlanta Orchid Society Orchid Show, a little Lycaste. I didn't know it at the time, but the Lycaste was the beginning of my fascination, perhaps obsession with orchids.

At first, the whole collection fit quite comfortably on a single windowsill. Then my sister in Ohio became obsessed with them and the race was on, fueled by shared interest, and some sibling rivalry, both of our collections took off, doubling then doubling again. Fed by plants available at meetings, auctions, and an increasing number of shows, the collection



This months meeting is on **Monday April 7th, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

- 1 April Meeting
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 President's Corner
- 4 Local Shows
- 5 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 **M thru R** 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

outgrew the windowsill. A 400W metal halide light was bought, the collection spent summers outside, an aquarium was added to give moisture loving, shade tolerant Masdevallias and company a place to grow. Things were getting a little out of hand. I outgrew the 400W light, and I couldn't bring myself to buy a second one. Not to mention that the collection was straining Cammie's (my wife) limits of tolerance. She kept telling me that there was no more room, she didn't understand that there is ALWAYS room for one more orchid. Then we move to Monterey, and outdoor growing year around became possible, "Get Out of the House" is what happened next.



P.O. Box 223462
Carmel
CA 93922-3462

Upcoming Events

April

4/5 Master Gardener Fair, Crossroads, Carmel. We will be selling plants, we need volunteers.

4/5-6 Central Coast Orchid Show, sponsored by Five cities Orchid Society, South County Regional Center, 800 W Branch, Arroyo Grande, CA. 9-5 Sat, 10-5 Sun. www.fcso.org

4/5-6 Napa Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale: Orchid Fiesta. Both days 10 - 4, Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson Avenue. Free Admission, Free Parking.

4/7 Monday COS meeting.

May

5/3-4 Carmel Valley Garden Show, We will be selling plants, we need volunteers.

5/5 Monday COS Meeting

5/10-11 Orchid Society of California Mother's Day Weekend Show & Sale, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.

5/30-31, 6/1 San Jose Orchid Exposition, Winchester Mystery House \$5

President's Corner

I suspect all of us have some kind of "orchid water ritual". I tend to pull out some plants to see if the plant tag corresponds to what I think it is and then try to figure out if I've placed it in an environment close to its origins. Seems that several of the plants I really like, including one recently purchased,



Grammangis ellisii, come from Madagascar.

That led me to Wikipedia and a web search for orchids grown in Madagascar. The basics are Madagascar is in the Indian Ocean off the South Eastern Coast of Africa. Sail west from Madagascar and you'll discover Tanzania or Mozambique. It is the 4th biggest island in the world. Its relative isolation is what makes it a cool place for folk interested in flora and fauna. Wikipedia sources claim that a large proportion of the animal and vegetable life on the island is not found anywhere else (outside of captivity), furthermore, over the years the variety of species has become increasingly endangered or extinct, that includes orchids. Madagascar is the world's

leading producer of vanilla which I presume means the Madagascar vanilla orchid is not likely to be pulled up and replaced by towns any time soon. On the other hand, the more than 1,000 other species of orchids found only in Madagascar do face threats. Fortunately, a number of conservation groups are working on abating desecration of plants - including the Omaha Zoo and Aquarium which has a project aimed at native orchids of Madagascar.

The island ranges in topography from highland plateaus currently cultivated in rice paddies to tropical rain forests to beautiful sandy beaches. Could be a tourist paradise. Which means that knowing that a few of my orchids are native to Madagascar has to be augmented by where they grow in Madagascar. Which means, you guessed it, a simple search to figure out where to put an orchid in the greenhouse, how to water it etc. has led to a desire to visit Madagascar. I encourage you to check out photos of the area, learn about its huge habitat preserve, and tell me if you don't think the ring tailed lemurs are cute (100 species of lemurs on the island). If that



does not entice you, what about this fabulous look at the classic story of the angrecom orchid and its pollinator wasp, “happy campers”.

Hope to see all of you at the Smart Gardening Fair, Saturday the 5th and at our regular meeting on the 7th.

Kathie



The COS exhibit at the Spring Home Show.

Local Shows

We will be selling orchids and spreading the word about COS at the **Smart Gardeners Fair, Saturday April 5th**. If you have plants to sell, bring them early. Please do not forget to show up if you signed up to work. And, if you have time to spare, it is a great show to browse, hope to see you there (at the Carmel Crossroads between the Safeway Parking Lot and Highway 1).

Put the **Carmel Valley Garden Show** on your calendar for **May 3rd and 4th**. We will be selling orchids at the show, including member orchids. Help is needed to set up on the 2nd as well as staff the booth on Saturday and Sunday the 3rd and 4th. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. As always, any help you can give is much appreciated by everyone.

COS Board Meeting 3-17-14

Members Present: John O'Connell, Kathie Ritter, Janette Ford, Daniel Bellem, Carol Easton and Jeanette Brown. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM at Carol's house.

Previous Minutes: Daniel moved, Carol seconded to approve minutes from the February meeting with the corrected spelling of his name; approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at the beginning of February was \$8498.07; at the end of the month balance was \$8307.17. Daniel noted that dues for the post office box are due and he will pay them this month.

VP Report: John is planning to speak at the April meeting about the process of building his greenhouse. He has not received confirmation from any other speakers at this time. Kathie spoke with Asuka Orchids (from San Bruno) at POE and said they showed interest in coming to COS. They specialize in cool growing orchids (cymbidiums). She also suggested contacting Ed Nazzel, the Jacobsen's, Tanya Lam and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society for possible speakers.

Report from Home and Garden Show: Kathie reported that we got about 40 new emails and two new members from the show on March 9 at the Fairgrounds. She will send copies of those emails to Carol (membership chair) and John (Backbulb editor).

Smart Garden Fair: The Fair is April 5 at the Crossroads. John, Kathie and Susan have offered to help set up the booth. Kathie will try to get one or two others to help with set up at 7:30 a.m. Cost of the booth was \$35 and has been paid. Kathie

and Janette plan to go to Baybreeze on Thursday to purchase orchids for the Smart Garden Fair and the raffle table for the meeting on April 7. Janette moved, Carol seconded that we spend \$600 total: \$400 for the booth, and \$200 for the raffle table. If there are extra plants, we will sell them at the meeting. The motion was passed with four yes votes and two no votes. COS members are also encouraged to bring orchids to sell.

Carmel Valley Garden Show: The show is planned for the first weekend in May. COS has already paid for a booth at \$50. We will plan to sell purchased orchids and also member orchids.

The next board meeting will be at Kathie's house on April 21 at 7PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted, Janette Ford



Scott Collins with one of his Odont's

BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag Price _____ plant id _____ Plant Name _____ Culture/Comments _____ Sellers Name _____	Price _____ plant id _____ Sellers name _____ _____

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.

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"/>

Mother's Day Weekend Orchid Show & Sale 2014

- Orchid Displays
- Orchids for Sale
- Culture Sessions
- Raffles
- FREE Admission



**Saturday
May 10**
10AM - 5PM

**Sunday
May 11**
10AM - 5PM

This Card Valid For 3 FREE Raffle Tickets

Lakeside Park Garden Center - 666 Bellevue Avenue - Oakland CA 94610
Next to The Gardens at Lake Merritt Botanical Garden in Lakeside Park

Presented By **ORCHID SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA.ORG**

Presented by Real Orchid Growers

SAN JOSE
ORCHID EXPOSITION
2014



©Eric Hunt www.orchiphotos.org

Join us at the
WINCHESTER
MYSTERY HOUSE®
525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose, CA 95128

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY 30	MAY 31	JUNE 1
5:30PM-9:30PM	9:00AM-6:00PM	10:00AM-5:00PM

PREVIEW NIGHT – FRIDAY
\$5.00 ADMISSION SAT & SUN
\$10.00 ADMISSION FRIDAY PREVIEW NIGHT

BEGINNER ORCHID GROWING SKILL SESSIONS
WORLD CLASS ORCHID GROWERS
for more information: www.realorchidgrowers.com
find **REAL ORCHID GROWERS** on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/realorchidgrowers)