

The BackBulb

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

June 2015



June Speaker: Dan Newman

Hanging Gardens: Worts and All

Every growing environment has its microclimates. By developing an understanding of the conditions in different parts of the growing area, we can position individual plants where they have the best chance to flourish. Sounds simple, but in practice, the process is more complicated. It involves a lot of trial and error, ongoing observation of results, and the willingness to make changes when needed - the last part being maybe the hardest!

After 12 years in my current greenhouse, I've made progress in some areas, but fallen behind in others. Whoever said orchids thrive on neglect must have been growing the plastic kind! The presentation will offer a look at different environments in the greenhouse and some of the things that grow there, with a candid discussion of what works and what doesn't. We'll also look at some of the dilemmas encountered in the continuing effort to become a better grower (or at least not a worse one).

Dan Newman started growing orchids in 1982. His first successful subject was a Dendrobium hybrid bought as a tiny seedling at a lei stand in the Honolulu Airport. When that plant finally grew up and bloomed a few years later, he was hooked! By 1996 he had 350 orchids in a one-bedroom apartment. That year he



Dan's greenhouse

This month's meeting is on **Monday June 1st, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

1 June Meeting

2 Upcoming Events

3 President's Corner
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Bus Trip

5 Orchid Obsession,
Lunacy...

In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **G thru L** 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

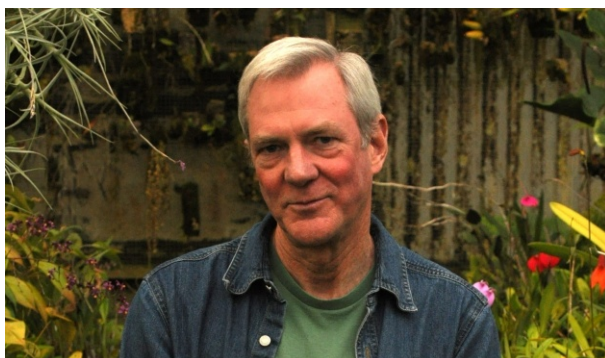
Lesley Olsen

Jeanette Brown

Lory Schluenz

Susan Holm

Frances Richardson



moved his plants into a rented commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. He took over the large species collection of his friend and orchid mentor, Walter Teague, and his hobby evolved into his nursery, Hanging Gardens. Dan

started growing orchids full-time in 2000, and moved to a larger greenhouse in Pacifica a few years later. He currently has 12,000 to 15,000 plants, mostly cool to intermediate growers (it's expensive to maintain really warm conditions in Pacifica). This number includes a few hybrids, but species make up his core collection and most of his sale stock. He also grows a variety of "companion plants", which share the natural habitats of orchids.

Dan joined the San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987, and served as its president in 1996/97. In recent years, he has spoken on a variety of topics to orchid societies in California and elsewhere.

P.O. Box 223462
Carmel
CA 93922-3462



Upcoming Events

June

6/1 Monday 7PM COS Meeting. Speaker Dan Newman

6/5-7, 2015 San Jose Orchid Exhibition and Wine Tasting.

Special Preview Night Friday 5:30 - 9:30 pm. Winchester
Mystery House, San Jose, CA 95128.

July

Note: No regular COS meeting in July

7/25 Bus trip to Orchids in the Park

7/25-26 Orchids in the Park, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Orchids In The Park, Bus Trip

This year our summer bus trip will be to the "Orchids in the Park Orchid Show" in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Saturday July 25. If you have an interest in going, please let Kathie know by June 2nd (email: mine7233@comcast.net or phone: 626-1120) so that we can decide whether to reserve a small or large bus and can determine the cost, which should be at most \$40 for COS members. As soon as we get a tentative head count, we will get back to you with the cost per person and take reservations. There will be an additional fee of \$5.00 to enter the Orchids in the Park show.



President's Corner

As we approach the midpoint of the year, it is time to actively start thinking about preparations for our Fall Orchid Festival - November 13th and 14th at the Community Church. By the end of the summer expect to hear from one or more of the Committee Chairs about "volunteer opportunities". As usual we will need help with lunch for the vendors and volunteers, set up and breakdown, potting demonstrations, member plant table and soliciting new members.

Most of the work that needs to be done takes place in the last month before the show. Some of the work can begin now!

If you are planning on selling some of your plants at the member sale table, now is the time to divide, nurture, get a picture with the plant in bloom etc. so that when the time comes to sell it, it is

ready to go.

If you have any kikis, do not have the time to pot them up for sale, and are willing to donate to the cause, let me know. If you were at the May meeting you saw the little bauble that Janette had planted up. We are going to try and put together some of those baubles with kikis to put on the member sale table or silent auction table.

Which brings me to the most important thing any of us can do to make the show a success: Put together a collection of items for the silent auction table. This year we will close out the auction at the end of each day as well as allow people to "buy now" for a specified price.

Experience tells us that many items are not "hot items" at our show. To date we have learned that an interesting bottle of wine, restaurant dinners and stays at desirable hotels/bed and breakfasts get

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bid on. We suspect that garden items could be popular. We also believe that stunning floral centerpieces either with or without orchids could be a draw; particularly holiday oriented centerpieces. Remember how impressed all of us were with the great job Scott did with dramatic mounts. If you have ideas of how we might put together some wow pieces at little or no cost, please let me know.

Most importantly, please start putting aside garden related items for the

auction, that bottle of wine you are willing to donate or ask your favorite restaurant owner for a donation of dinner for two.

Hope to see you at the June meeting. And don't forget, we need to know if you are planning to go on the bus trip to Orchids in the Park.

Kathie

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2015 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"/>

Orchid Obsession, Lunacy, Adiction and More

There are a lot of books about orchids and orchid culture out there. You probably own a few. Coffee table books or books that focus on culture and how to grow your plants, they offer amazing photos and bountiful information about many orchids, familiar, and completely unknown. They feed the need to know more about our beautiful, and frequently mysterious orchids. But beyond the plants one of the most interesting things about the orchid world are the people. See orchid people tend to be a little bit nuts. It is amazing how often the words obsession and addiction are used to describe the relationship we have with our plants. These books are about the obsessed, the people crazy about orchids.

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession – Susan Orlean – Susan explores the orchid world and the weird people who inhabit it, but the star of the show is the Ghost Orchid.

Adaptation (Movie) starring: Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper, Tilda Swinton – The “Orchid Thief” was so difficult to adapt into a movie they eventually made the movie about the adaptation. Great acting and a great movie even if they take a bunch of liberties with the book.

Orchid Fever: A Horticultural Tale of Love, Lust, and Lunacy - Eric Hansen – Like the “Orchid Thief”, Orchid Fever” explores the eccentric personalities of the orchid world but it is tied together by the impact of the CITES treaty on the orchid world.

The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the world's most Beautiful Orchid – Craig Pittman – Speaking of CITES, the story of *Phragmipedium kovachii* hinges on CITES. This book tells the story of how the flower got its name and aftermath when the s--- hit the fan.

Orchid Territory – Mary Motes – A story about the politics of a big South Florida orchid show. Many of the characters are based on real people.

Orchid Tales – Harold Koopowitz – Mix together a bit of orchid history and a bit of humor for an interesting collection of stories.

Nero Wolfe mysteries by Rex Stout – Classic mysteries solved by the famous orchid growing detective.



Experimenting with Bamboo mounts

COS Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:12 at Carol's house.

Members Present: John O'Connell, Kathie Ritter, Janette Ford, Jeannette Brown, Lory Schluenz, Susan Holm, Daniel Bellem and Carol Easton.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from April meeting read. Daniel moved, Carol seconded to accept minutes as presented. Accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at the beginning of April was \$10,289.82. At the end of the month it was \$10,089.84. Expenses for the month were for the meeting, P.O. box rental and postage, and liability insurance. Daniel asked for board permission to reimburse Carol for the cost of November show posters and postcards. The board approved the report and reimbursement by acclamation.

V.P. Report: Dan Newman is scheduled for our June meeting, Ron Parson in August and maybe a speaker that will be visiting several nearby societies in October. John has made tentative plans for our society to go to Orchids in the Park show (July 25th) for our bus tour. Daniel moved, Lory seconded, to go forward with this plan including making a deposit for the bus if necessary. Approved. John will make the bus reservation. Kathie will contact the

Carmel Foundation and Pebble Beach Garden Club members to see if they would like to join us.

Old Business: Kathie reported that we netted \$201.00 at the Carmel Valley Garden Show. There was some discussion as to whether or not the three events in which we have participated these last three months are worth the effort. No action was taken.

New Business: Fall Show

Carol presented a project plan for the Fall Faire. She has COS members lined up to chair the jobs before and during the show. She got notice that Dennis Olivas will not be able to attend as a vendor, but three other vendors we had last year plan to be with us again. Carol and John will see if Dan Newman may be able to come as a vendor. Kathie noted at the Carmel Valley Garden Show silent auction that wine items and items grouped in baskets had more bidders. They also had separate auctions for each day of the show. We still are planning to have more garden/orchid items for the auction and maybe include some items for Christmas; and would like to have enough items to have a separate auction each day.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15th at Kathie's house.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted, Janette Ford

Presented by Real Orchid Growers



WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

— 2015 —

SAN JOSE ORCHID EXPOSITION

525 S. Winchester Blvd. San Jose CA 95128

Friday

June 5

5:30PM - 9:30PM

Saturday

June 6

9:00AM - 6:00PM

Sunday

June 7

10:00AM - 5:00PM

PREVIEW NIGHT - FRIDAY

\$5.00 ADMISSION SAT & SUN

\$10.00 FRIDAY PREVIEW NIGHT

**BEGINNING ORCHID GROWING SKILL SESSIONS
BY WORLD CLASS ORCHID GROWERS**

Tickets: WinchesterMysteryHouse.com
Orchid Information: RealOrchidGrowers.com



PLU: 360

\$3 off Mansion or Grand Estate Tour
for up to 6 guest. Only valid on June
5th, 6th and 7th 2015. Not valid with
other offers, night events, group
tours or online purchases.