

The BackBulb

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

May 2018



May Speaker: Dean Haas

Get the Best Out of Growing Orchids from the Hobbyist at Home to Growing in Greenhouses

This talk will not be a slide show presentation though I may bring a few plants to illustrate my thoughts. It will be about how to get the best out of growing orchids from the hobbyist at home to growing in greenhouses.

A brief history of Dean's association with orchids:

1976 Beginning of my hobbyist orchid collection

1980's Joined SFOS, POS, OSC and one of the founding members of the GG Cymbidium Society

1989 Joint venture with Bartley Schwartz, plant breeder extraordinaire of Highland Tropicals purchasing 5000

cymbidiums together from Dr. Arhontes of Castro Valley.

That November I started Botanico dedicated to growing and disseminating plants in particular orchids.

Initially I brokered orchids from the many fine orchid growers and companies in the Bay Area and Salinas including: Highland Tropicals, Orchid Zone, Bay Breeze, Rod Maclellan, Robin Davis, Pui Chen, Matsui as well as a number of other companies and individuals. Of these, nearly all are out of business except for Matsui which is no longer open to smaller



Holcoglossum quasipinifolium in John's greenhouse

1
May Speaker

2
Upcomming Events

3
It's Repotting Time Again!

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

John OConnell

VP Program

Jerry Loomis

Recording

Secretary

Janette Ford

Treasurer

Daniel Bellem

Directors

Janette Ford

Carol Easton

Susan Holm

Lesley Olsen

Carolyn Salmon

Jeanie Sturges

businesses.

2004 took over lease of the greenhouse in Half Moon Bay when Bartley passed away. Dennis Olivas and I continued on there until 2013/14 when the property was sold.

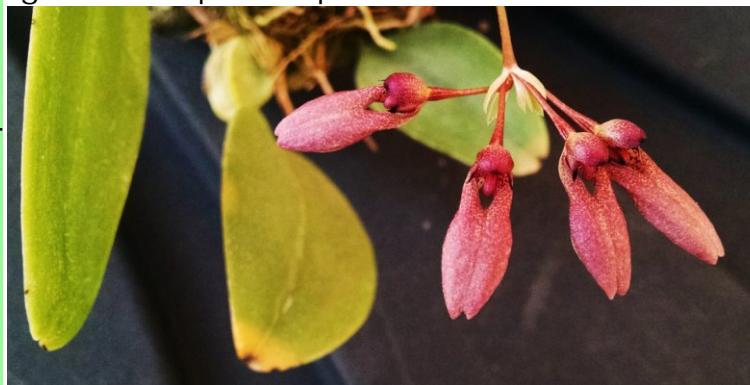
2014 Started over again at Schickenberg Nursery, also in HMB. Rebuilt a greenhouse from the ground up.

The orchid world has changed vastly since I started. On the positive side there are more good quality plants available through the advances in cloning techniques for reasonable prices. On the negative side orchid growing has ceased to be a means to make a decent living except for the few larger growers and brokers remaining. That means that fewer folks are doing breeding. To survive I diversified and am changing my focus to more species and less available orchids. I have always grown companion plants to orchids such as Bromeliads and

P.O. Box 223462
Carmel, CA
93922-3462

BackBulb Editor & Webmaster

John OConnell



Epiphyllums; now I carry a much greater selection of these some of which I will include on the plant opportunity table.

Bulbophyllum sp. in John's greenhouse. It took 8 years to get this plant to bloom.

Upcoming Events

May

5/5-6 Carmel Valley Garden Show, Hidden Valley Music Seminars, Carmel Valley Village

5/7 Monday 7PM, COS May Meeting

5/12-13 Orchid Society of California, Mothers' Day Weekend Orchid Show & Sale, Lakeside Park Garden Center Nursery 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA

June

6/4 Monday COS June Meeting

6/9 Orchid Digest Speakers Day 'Orchids in the Wild' Noon - 8 pm Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens San Marino, CA

It's Repotting Time Again!

It is a rite of passage to the novice, a dreaded chore to the owners of large collections, or a chance to try out something new if you feel a little adventurous. Novices generally approach repotting with much trepidation, fearing that any mistake will lead to the death of their beloved orchid. Old hands rip plants out of pots, cut them into pieces and pot up everything in their favorite pot and mix and move on to the next. Experience has taught us that orchids are a lot tougher than we once thought. But unfortunately not tough enough to protect them from an poor potting choice or unfortunate timing. The 80/20 rule applies here. 80 percent of the plants will grow just fine in almost anything you put them in, the other 20 percent will resent either your timing or your choice of pots, mix or mount and either die quickly, if you are lucky, or mangle for months or years until the last green leaf finally drops and you concede defeat, add the tag to your "killed" file and the corpse to your compost pile, where it will resist decay and remind you of your failure until buried beneath months of kitchen scraps. It is ironic that orchid roots seem to easily rot in



Cammie thinks that this is John's offering to the frog god. John thinks the poor Masdevallia expired after a long frustrating life that included much growth but few blooms, the frog was just in the right place at the right time to end up with the corpse.

3 year old bark, but will resist decay for many months in a compost pile that makes short work of yesterdays salad scraps.

Repotting and the choices that go with it is also a rich source of disagreement between orchid people. Everyone has their own favorites and reasons for them and they are usually quite willing to tell anyone who will listen why they like product xyz or even expound on their philosophy of potting, repotting, dividing, or mounting usually until their victims eyes have either glazed over or rolled up into their head bringing the lecture to an end. Repotting choices provide the subject for many presentations, magazine articles, chapters in books and web pages. So if you are serious about growing orchids you should try to see the presentations, read the articles, find the books, search the internet and if all that fails reach out to other orchid growers. The vendor

who sold you the plant, a vendor who is selling the plant, other society members, between us we have probably grown, or tried to grow several hundred different species. Of course you may be inundated with information or find almost nothing. frequently the information is incomplete, inapplicable or contradictory, you may just have to fall back on your better judgment, and hope for the best.

John

COS Board of Directors Meeting April. 23, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:15 at Caroy'n's house.

- Members Present: Carolyn Salmon, John O Connell, JerryLoomis, Jeanie Sturges and Susan Holm.
- No treasures report as Daniel Bellam was out of town.
- Jerry Loomis gave VP report. May speaker is Dean Haas. June meeting speaker will be our former President, Carol Easton featuring her travels to various botanical gardens. No general meeting in July. We will need an August speaker. Noted we will need to schedule a November meeting and speaker. There was a discussion regarding July Greenhouse visit. Focus will be arrange car pools to attend Orchids in the Park show in Golden Gate Park Saturday July 21st. Discussion regarding September BBQ scheduled for Sept 8th. Carolyn to check with Kathy regarding a possible home in Marina.
- There was discussion to purchase orchid pictured t shirts for volunteers to wear at our October show.
- Discussed new outlets for society and show publicity to include the various senior centers on the Peninsula. Jerry to check with KAZU

radio and Jeanie to contact Foolish Times newspaper.

- Our presence at the Monterey Home Show was a success. We've added approx 40 people to our email list with some possible new members. The orchid display was very colorful and very fragrant.
- Our speaker can bring small sized Rexus bark for sale at 15.00 a bag.
- Our next Board meeting will be May 14th at Johns house.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Salmon



49th Annual Carmel Valley Garden Show
May 5th and 6th
Cut Flowers Containers Arrangements
Silent Auction Live Music Plant Sales
Vendors Photography Contest
Children's Garden Garden Cafe
Saturday Evening Gala
cvgardenclub.org **10 am to 4 pm**
Hidden Valley Music Seminars
Carmel Valley Village
Proceeds benefit Carmel Valley Nonprofits
©Bill Baker

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

2018 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	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>



Epidendrum peperomia, a neat creeping mini, blooming in John's greenhouse. I think the flowers look like little green bugs.