

# The BackBulb

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

December 2012



## COS Holiday Pot-Luck

Every year we get together to celebrate the holidays, this year we are doing a pot-luck with a big plant table. The idea is simple, **bring food (or drink)**, the society will provide a ham. After we eat and socialize we will raffle off the plants and everyone will go home stuffed and with an extra orchid or two for their collection. Kathie and Carol promise a **special plant table** with a variety of blooming plants, including Cymbidiums.

There will be a show and tell table, so bring your blooming plants. This also might be a good time to try to sell any leftover or unloved plants, or orchid materials.

The next meeting is on  
**Monday December 3rd, 7PM**  
at the Community Church of  
Monterey Peninsula. 4590  
Carmel Valley Rd.



Even new members have plants to show off.

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P.O. Box 223462  
Carmel  
CA 93922-3462

## Upcoming Events

### December

**12/3 Monday, COS Holiday Potluck.**

### January

**1/7 Monday, COS January Meeting**

1/26-27 Peninsula Orchid Society Show, Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City.

### February

**2/4 Monday, COS February Meeting**

2/21-24 POE! Pacific Orchid Exposition at teh Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Gala Thursday night. Over 50 vendors!



Scenes from the Santa Cruz show, courtesy of Donald Gibeson

## Greenhouse Dreaming

Sooner or later every orchid addict seriously contemplates a greenhouse. Maybe the available growing spaces in the house get a bit crowded or maybe the it's allure of a controlled growing space where you don't have to worry about the walls, flooring, spouse... Some lucky people go whole hog right off the bat with 200+ square feet of climate controlled growing space, others start out small, cheap or both. That's me, four years ago I bought a 8'x8' polyethylene covered hoop type greenhouse for around \$200 and moved about half my collection into it for the summer. With the addition of a little heat, during the last couple of winters an increasing number of my plants have made it their cold weather home too.



Acampe praemorsa, aquired at the Santa Cruz show in November.

But I keep thinking about getting a larger “real” greenhouse. **The arguments for it are many:**

- Free up the space in the garage where most of the rest of the collection resides.
- Get rid of the big grow light, and save the \$300 a year that it takes to run the thing.
- Control the heat and humidity better. The old greenhouse is very drafty so I can't keep it damp when the humidity is low.
- Decrease maintenance costs. The woven polyethylene cover is fairly durable, but the zippers for the door and window don't last very long and replacing the end pieces is a hassle and costs a fair percentage of the original price (planned that way maybe?).
- Automatic vent openers so I don't have to open the windows every day or risk baked plants.
- Of course more space for more plants!

### On the down side:

- Cost! \$2000-\$4000 for something of sufficient quality, I don't want to go the “cheap” rout again.
- More \$\$ for the automation and extras that I will surely want.
- More \$\$ for more plants that I will surely want.
- If I move all the plants to a greenhouse I will need to heat it more for the warmer growing ones, more \$\$

### A few things to obsess over:

- Price vs quality. For the 120-150 sq feet I am looking for, prices start at around \$700 and extend beyond \$5000. Spending more seems to get

you a stronger more wind resistant structure with more extras, the trick is striking a balance and getting something that I can live with without breaking the budget.

- It doesn't get very hot here or stay that way long, but cooling is important because it doesn't take long for the temp in a greenhouse to soar well over 100 derees even when the outside temp is only 60. Good ventilation should take care of most of my cooling. The question is how to ventilate. Active with fans on a thermostat or passive with heat activated vent openers.



Eria coronaria

So if I can get past all those \$\$\$, maybe the wishful thinking will turn into something that I can really obsess about, Cammie can attest to this, having witnessed me obsess about purchases for a tenth the price. So far the \$\$\$ have been to big an obstacle, so maybe it's a bit early to start obsessing too much.

**John**

## C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2013 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

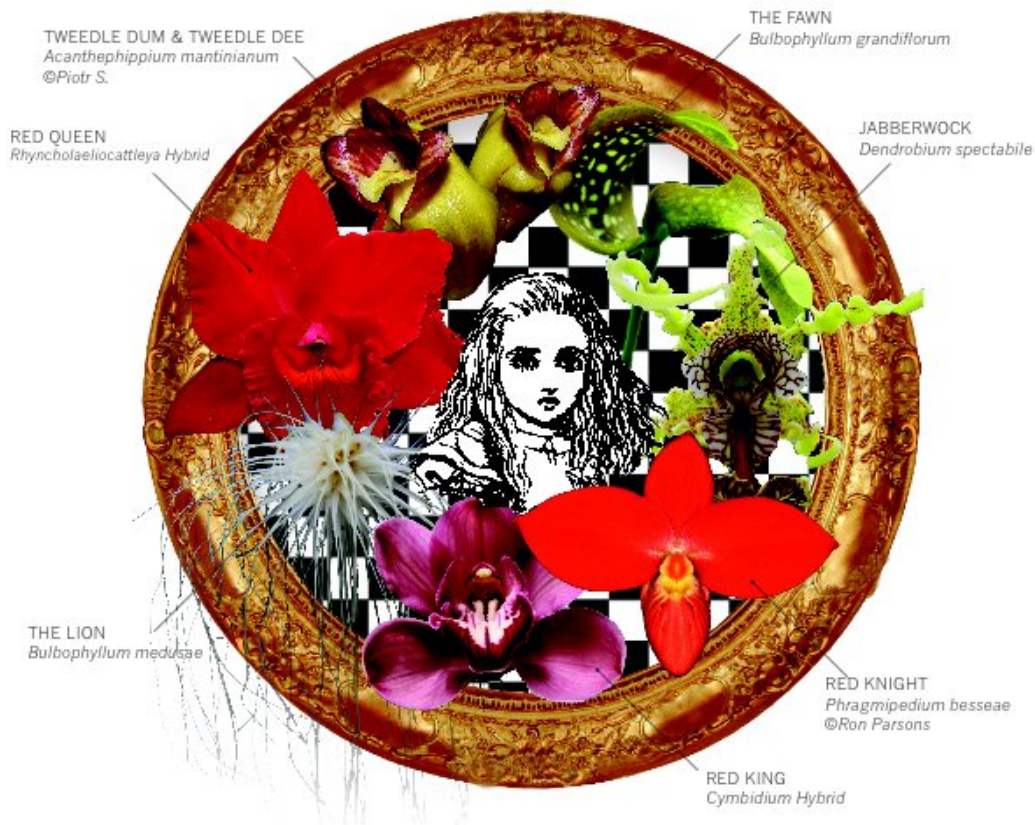
his/her name \_\_\_\_\_

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"/>

# 56th Peninsula Orchid Society Show & Sale



“Through the Looking Glass”

JANUARY 26-27, 2013 • 10 AM to 5 PM

- § Spectacular Orchid Displays
- § Speakers and Workshops
- § Orchid Sales and Giveaways

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES BUILDING  
1400 ROOSEVELDT AVE  
REDWOOD CITY, CA

GENERAL ADMISSION - \$5  
SENIORS / STUDENTS - \$3  
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER W/ ADULT - FREE



<http://penorchidsoc.org>

