

The BackBulb

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

January 2009 ■



January Meeting

Dan Newman will speak about:

Miniature Orchids: Nature's Small Wonders

The January meeting of the Carmel Orchid Society is at **7PM, Monday, January 5** at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, 501 El Dorado St. Monterey, CA.

Everyone who gets hooked on orchids eventually runs out of space! There are more fascinating species in the world than any of us can hope to accommodate, but by adding some smaller-growing plants to our collections, we

can fit more variety into the space available. The aim of this talk will be to show the charm and the range of variation that miniature orchids can provide, and to discuss their needs in cultivation.

Dan Newman started growing orchids in 1982. His first successful plant was a Dendrobium hybrid bought as a tiny seedling at a lei stand in the Honolulu Airport. By 1996 he had 350 orchids in a one-bedroom apartment. That year he moved his plants into a commercial greenhouse space. He took over the large species collection of his friend and "orchid mentor", Walter Teague of San Francisco, 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 10,000 to 12,000 plants, mostly cool to intermediate growers. This number includes a few hybrids, but the great majority are species.



Dan with some of his smaller orchids

- 1 January Meeting
- 2 Feb. Orchid Flea Market
- 3 Upcomming Events
- 4 Presidents Message
- 5 2009 May Faire
- Orchid Tips
- 2009 Dues

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February Orchid Flea Market

If you were at the Christmas party this year you already know that we have a new MayFaire venue this year. If not, you will find information about the event below. We will be participating in the May event as a vendor and will not be able to do our member sales table. Not to fear...we have decided to create an "Orchid Flea Market" sales event at our February monthly meeting. This is a great opportunity to visit with members, purchase plants, relinquish duplicate plants, kikis, orchid books, plants that are not thriving in your environment, or just making room for a new purchase at the upcoming Pacific Orchid Expo coming this March.

The format is simple. All members are welcome even if you have nothing to sell. If you are selling, your plants must be clean and healthy without lurking pests, proper label if known, price, and a photo if out of bloom. You will be responsible for your own plants and most likely share a table with another member or two unless you have an abundance of orchids. The customary 10% profit to the society has been waived so you keep everything you make. We will be providing a larger than normal "Goodies" table. This proves to be a fun event as it lets us share growing techniques, successes, failures, and overall orchid knowledge. Please start perusing your collections for those orchids that need a new home. More details at the January meeting.

2009 May Faire

This year we are partnering with Carmel Valley Garden Club in their Carmel Valley Flower and Art Show.

- ◆ This show is a one day show on Sun May 17th. Setup on Friday and Saturday.
- ◆ Individuals may submit plants for judging on an individual basis and must prepare their plants accordingly. Judging takes place on Saturday by nationally known flower judges.
- ◆ The COS will have 5 booths for our raffle, plant sales and three vendors.
- ◆ The society is looking for members who may own, and be willing to lend us 10x10 ft white E-Z ups for a couple days. These will be used in our raffle and plant sales booths.

More details Later.

President's Message

If you didn't attend the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14th at Rancho Canada you missed a great party. The food was delicious and abundant. Marilyn Uribe and Elizabeth Coelho were in charge of the raffle and provided great entertainment in between pulling the tickets. The raffle tables were loaded with a good selection of different types of orchids from tiny species plants to huge standard cymbidiums. During dinner the sky opened up and hail peppered the windows, patio and roof of the dining room. It will be a night to be remembered.

The Board has decided to accept the offer from the Carmel Valley Garden Club to partner with them for our annual MayFaire event this year. We were not able to find a venue, free of charge, that met our requirements and the CVGC invited us to join their event which will be at the Hidden Valley Music Seminar site in Carmel Valley Village. There are more details on page two. The Board is really excited about joining the CVGC annual Garden and Art Show.

The February meeting will be an Orchid Flea Market which will be an opportunity for our members to sell their extra orchids. So – if you have won orchids that you can't grow, or have divisions that you would like to sell this is the time. See the details on page two.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a Happy, Healthy 2009.

Carol

Upcoming Events

January

1/5 Monday 7PM COS monthly meeting. Dan Newman from Hanging Gardens will speak on Minature Orchids.

1/10-11 10 AM - 4 PM Orchids Under The Oaks at Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore, CA.

1/17-18 10 AM - 5 PM Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale at Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City.

1/24-25 Santa Cruz Orchid Society, Show & Sale Soquel High School 9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday.

February

2/2 Monday 7PM COS Orchid Flea Market (for details see Page 2).

2/20-22 Santa Clara Orchid Society, Show & Sale at the Westgate Mall, San Jose, CA

Orchid Talk

For over one year now, our Orchid Tips column has been on hiatus. A number of members have requested that this column return. So, in answer to this request, I will once again turn my brain on, and try to share all that I continue to learn about orchids. Writing this column motivates me to keep reading articles, newsletters gleaned information from orchid growers and finding those elusive supplies and websites.

Winter is most definitely here with unusually cold temperatures. With winter comes cymbidium bloomtime. The cyms will take these cold temps, but the spikes will not survive below freezing. They will do okay in the garage for a few days. Once the buds have popped through the sheaths, keep them out of the direct rain to avoid spotting. Be sure to bait for slugs and snails as they will attack the buds before they have opened. You can train the spike early if they are not growing in an upright position. Use pieces of wine cork at the very base to prod them upwards. As they grow you can then stake them with tape or ties. You can also wrap a cotton ball around the spike below the buds to protect them from climbing slugs or snails.

Your orchids will survive in an unheated greenhouse if you pursue the following steps. Many orchids require a winter rest. The rule of thumb is no water other than an occasional misting between Halloween and Valentine's Day. Nobile type and other dendrobiums, laelias, catasetums, cycnoches, and barkerias come to mind. Many of the tropical habitats do not have summer and winter, but do have wet and dry seasons. The more one can learn about a particular orchid's natural habitat, the more clues you will have to grow that orchid successfully. In general, cut way back on your watering schedule and the amount of water your orchids receive. Water early on sunny days whenever possible. Water one section of the greenhouse in a day. You are trying to avoid wet plants and condensation by nightfall. Plant hygiene is most important during the winter to avoid bacterial and fungus infections that spot leaves and rot plants. Clean yellow and dead leaves away from plants. Paphs have a particular smell when they begin to rot. I pour hydrogen peroxide over the area. You can hear it fizz as it disinfects and is harmless to your orchids. When I cut off part of a leaf I may use neosporin along the edge or over a spot to inhibit further infection. You can do a preventative spraying once a month with Physan as well. Some of us add a little pure soap like Ivory to our water or fertilizer to keep the plants cleaner. If you do continue to fertilize, use quarter strength and be sure to flush plants with clear water to remove dissolved salts. Remember the harder your water, the less fertilizer you should use.

Happy Holidays to all. You can bring inside, those blooming cyms to brighten up your festivities.

Carolyn Salmon

2009 Christmas Party



Plant opportunity tables



Dancing



The Marilyn & Elizabeth Show and their fans.

2009 Dues Are Due

if you receive you BackBulb via U.S. Mail, as of January 1st your dues will increase by an additional \$5. This increase is due to the high cost of printing and mailing the BackBulb. Pay your Dues before the 1st and avoid the increase!■

CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

2009 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Jaclyn Kinney 1381 Boles Ct. Seaside, CA 93955

Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

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"/> |

As of 1/09 US Mail will cost an additional \$5.

Orchid Show and Sale!

Brought to you by
The Peninsula Orchid Society

January 17-18, 2009
10 am -5 pm

Community Activities Building
1400 Roosevelt Avenue
Redwood City, CA
<http://penorchidsoc.org>
Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors,
disabled and children 12-16.

Painting by Diana Gross