

The BackBulb

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

November 2009 ■



November Meeting: Nick Tannaci

Nick Tannaci was born in Duarte, California in 1951. His mother started growing orchids the year before that. She was a member of the San Gabriel Valley Orchid Society so Nick remembers many childhood days breaking crock for his mother's plants and being dragged through L.A. County Arboretum and Oak

Hurst gardens. Even with this early exposure, Nick didn't catch the orchid bug until many years later (1973) upon graduation from U.C. Davis. Since that time he has operated a small wholesale orchid business specializing in *Brachypetalum* and *Parvisepalum* hybrids. Currently his nursery is in Watsonville, California.

His presentation will be based on the whole life cycle of a *Paphiopedilum*. He will pollinate a flower, deflask seedlings into a compot and then remove seedlings from a compot which members will transplant into 2" pots. The participating members will be given the seedling that they transplanted.

The November meeting is on **Monday November 2nd, 7PM** At the **Community Church of Monterey Peninsula**, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

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A "paph" from Dan Newman's greenhouse. I spent a delightful couple of hours there during his recent open house and sale. I highly recommend a visit, especially if you love species. Dan has a ton of rare, unusual, different, and just downright cool plants.

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Carol's Commentary

Last month's Flea Market and Orchid Auction plus Ice Cream Social was great. If you didn't attend, you missed a fun event.

Many thanks to all who made it happen.

Our next meeting, November 2, is election night. Please attend to vote for your new Board. The list of Board members that was announced at our October meeting is elsewhere in the BackBulb. We will also have a great speaker, Nick Tanacci, who will do a presentation of the life cycle of a paphiopedilum including a hands-on demonstration.

Please mark your calendar for our next big event – our annual **Christmas Party Sunday December 13** at 5 PM at Rancho Canada. We will have a bountiful buffet as we did last year

beginning with a no host bar at 5 and dinner at 6. Our bountiful buffet will be headlined by a Carving Station with Prime Rib and Fresh Baked Salmon. As in the past our Party will be topped off with an outstanding raffle table with lots of blooming orchids. Please fill out the reservation form found elsewhere in the BackBulb and mail to Sharon & Ken Ashton. It promises to be a fun evening.

Carol

COS Officers for 2010

President: Carol Easton

VP Program: Jaclyn Kinney

Recording Secretary: Marilyn Uribe

Treasurer: Ken Ashton

Membership: Sharon Ashton

BackBulb Editor: John OConnell

AOS Rep.: John OConnell

Show Coordinator: Joanie Linares

Directors: Elizabeth Coelho, Lesley Olsen, Shirley West, Janette Ford



Some of us grow more than orchids! Veggies at the COS Flea Market & Auction



What every vendor wants to see: shoppers!

Upcoming Events

November

Monday 11/2 COS Monthly Meeting. Nick Tannaci

11/7-8 Annual Fall Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House. www.sborchid.com

11/7-8 Orchid Society of California Show, Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA. www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com.

11/28-29 Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Annual Show and Sale "Orchids in Paradise," Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA.

December

12/10 CVGA Holiday Party.

Sunday 12/13 COS Christmas Party 5 PM at Rancho Canada.

January

1/30-31 Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show, Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA.

February

2/6-7 Sonoma County Orchid Society Show, Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA.

2/26-28 SFOS Pacific Orchid Exhibition, Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe



More pictures from Dan's greenhouse.

Christmas Party Sign Up

Please sign me up for the COS Christmas Party on December 13th, 5:00pm - 10:00pm at the Rancho Canada Golf Club on Carmel Valley Road.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Members @ \$30 each _____

Number of non-members @ \$45 each _____

Non-member name _____

Please return this coupon with a check made payable to the Carmel Orchid Society to:

Sharon Ashton, Carmel Orchid Society
26966 Laureles Grade Road
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Carmel Valley Garden Assoc. Holiday Party

As you know, COS and Carmel Valley Garden Association (CVGA) joined efforts last year for our MayFaire event and will do the same this year. The new name for this event is Carmel Valley Flower, Orchid, and Art Show. More about that later but in the meantime the Carmel Valley Garden Association has most graciously invited our society to attend their holiday party this year! It will be held on Thursday, Dec 10th 6:00 p.m. at the Carmel Valley Community Center. This is the same place we had our Summer Orchid Fest. Linda Aspinwall chairs this event and I hear through the grapevine, we won't even recognize the place. It is a potluck dinner with a free raffle for the table center pieces. CVGA is providing the meat/fish course and attendees will be asked to bring a dish or bottle of wine etc. We are still having our COS party on Dec 13th as well so it will be a fun and busy weekend. If you are interested in attending the CVGA holiday party contact Linda Aspinwall at 831-659-9155 or her cell 831 277-6005. Hope to see you there.

Joanie

COS Profile:

John OConnell

"To know you is to love you" So to better know and love your fellow members, we are soliciting your stories. They can be about your orchids, or something else. Send your story, one sentence or ten, to johnoconnell19@att.net.

We will start out with a piece I wrote a couple of years ago for member profile



section of the Atlanta Orchid Society Newsletter.

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 from Pike's then, upon discovering the AtLOS 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.

Up until a couple of years ago, 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 outgrew the windowsill. A 400W metal halide light was bought (my sister acquired one 2 months later), shade cloth was purchased to shield them from the sun during their summers outside, an aquarium was added to give moisture loving, shade tolerant

Masdevallias and company a place to grow. Things are getting a little out of hand. I have outgrown the 400W light, and I just can't bring myself to buy a second one, yet. Not to mention that the current collection is straining Cammie's (my wife) limits of tolerance. She keeps telling me that there is no more room, she doesn't understand that there is ALWAYS room for one more orchid.

Slowly the plants have taken up increased amounts of space and time. A little time watering in the morning before dashing off to work, and a little quality time in the evening looking for buds, bugs, snails and such. Some vacation days are spent attending far-flung orchid shows (Orlando, Lexington and Santa Barbra just this year!). I rewrote and have been maintaining the society web site. I have also been trying to combine one of my old hobbies, photography, with my new interest with at least a little success. Maybe there is some balance. The orchids aren't stealing too much time from my other hobbies, cycling and backpacking with Cammie, I don't have orchids in every room in the house, I was able to pass up the orchid themed luggage, towels and sheets at the MAOC auction, and I am still married and employed. So there is hope yet, but I don't think I will push my luck and begin planning that greenhouse.

An update: I now am doing two websites, Atlanta's and ours, and our newsletter on top of that. The orchids have doubled again, to slightly over 200. And I went half way with the greenhouse and bought a single layer plastic one. The far-flung orchid shows now include the World Orchid Congress in Miami and San Francisco's POE.

John

Orchid Talk

The rainy season has arrived. With El Nino forming in the Pacific, it may be a wet winter. It seems like I am always talking about cymbidiums, but here is what I do this time of year. I have given my cym some high nitrogen, time release fertilizer in early September. I am trying to give those new growths a last chance to mature so that I may get spikes later this winter. I remove all the oak leaves and pine needles from the mix and around the pseudobulbs. I take off the old, brown skins and remove any yellowing leaves. My goal is to eliminate slug and snail homes and other likely places that can hold water. Many cym are already in spike and I use wine corks to help train them upright. I also sprinkle bait in and around them to deter the hungry pests. Now is the time to switch fertilizers to the bloom boosting type with low nitrogen.

Keep an eye on the sun angle's changes. Your windowsill plants could be getting direct sun now. With a southern exposure, the sun will advance much further into your room. Many of us remove our shade cloth this time of year as well to maximize the light we can still receive. This is a good time to get out the bug spray, physan and ivory soap to discourage the mealy bugs, bacteria, fungal infections that plague our plants during the winter. Start cutting down on the water schedule. Remember the Halloween to Valentine's Day winter rest that nobile type dendrobiums and barkeria, catasetums and others require.. I still mist these plants occasionally during the winter.

There are some orchids in the cattleya alliance that are sprouting roots off their newest growths now. This is a signal to

repot if the mix is old or the plant is leaving the pot. In the tropics, the seasons change from dry to wet in Oct or Nov, and these roots appear in order to catch the rain. I only water my catts about every 3 weeks during the winter because they survive the colder temps when they are drier. . They should dry out between waterings, but

watered thoroughly when you do water. Your goal is to keep the roots in the mix as much as possible. When they head out of the pot, they are looking for moisture that you have not provided in the mix.

I joke about my greenhouse being a plant hospital. I regularly receive plants that are near death from people who have given up on them for one reason or another. If they are rotting, I usually can't save them, but I try. It takes patience. Realize that

the pitted, yellow awful leaves will not turn green again. You want to support the plant to give it the energy to make new growth. After a few years, you can separate the old plant from the new growths and have something nice. I may give these plants a year or two. If the new growths are not big and plump, forget it. It goes in the garbage can. Before I bring a new plant into my greenhouse from any source, I spray it with a systemic, bug spray like Bayer. If I see the bugs, I spray it first with rubbing alcohol, then the Bayer.

I just received my Orchids Digest Magazine. The entire magazine is on the Lady Slipper Orchids. The photography is amazing. Such a worthwhile magazine to read and learn about orchids. Go to www.orchiddigest.com to subscribe.

Carolyn Salmon



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

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

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If you were referred by a current member, please provide

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It's Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time again. Renew now and enjoy all our great speakers, fabulous orchid opportunity tables, and this elegant newsletter!



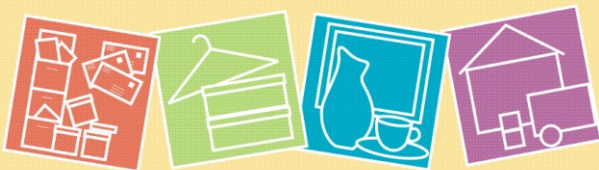
A *Maxillaria grandiflora* from Jim's collection. Photo by Carol Easton



Advertise in the BackBulb

If you have a business, or just want to advertise your yard sale, this may be the place. The COS is now accepting advertising in the BackBulb. Circulation is mainly to our members and visitors, around 100 copies per month. The rates are: \$5 quarter page, \$10 half page, and \$20 for a full page. If you are interested contact the BackBulb editor, John OConnell johnoconnell19@att.net.

And now a word from our sponsors...



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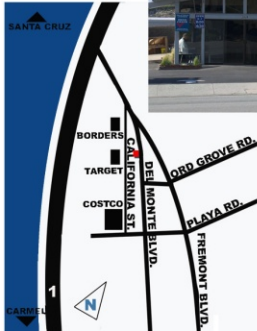
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