

The BackBulb

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

December 2009 ■



2009 COS Holiday Party

- ❖ All reservations must be in to Carol Easton by December 7th
- ❖ The party will be held at the Rancho Canada Golf Club on Carmel Valley Road. About 1 mile from Hwy. 1 on the right.
- ❖ You must have paid your 2009 COS dues to be eligible for the member price. In addition, if you pay your 2010 dues by December 1st you will be eligible for a very nice plant to be given away in a special drawing at the party.
- ❖ There will be a big plant raffle table.
- ❖ Holiday attire.
- ❖ No-Host Bar from 5 PM to 10 PM
- ❖ Buffet Dinner 6:30 PM

There will be **no** regular December meeting. The next meeting will be on **January 4th**.



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Menu

*Napa Cabbage Salad - Shredded Savoy Cabbage, Gruyere Cheese, Ripe Olives,
Diced Red Onions, Chopped Bacon and Garlic Dressing*
Roasted Beet, Red Onion and Feta Cheese Salad
*Toasted Mediterranean Cous Cous Salad with Grilled Eggplant and Roasted Red
Peppers*
Salad Caprice - Fresh Mozzarella, Basil and Fine Ripe Tomatoes
Carving Station: Prime Rib of Beef with Horseradish Sauce and Au Jus
*Chicken Strudel - Chicken Breast, Wild Mushrooms, Leeks and Boursin Cheese
Baked in a Flaky Pastry with Ginger Beurre Blanc Sauce*
Whole Sides of Fresh Salmon Baked with Herbal Dijon Aioli
Saffron Rice, Vegetable Medley and Roasted New Potatoes Rosemary
Assorted Rolls and Butter
Holiday Dessert Display
Coffee and Tea

COS Officers

President

Carol Easton

VP Program

Joanie Linares

Recording

Secretary

Marilyn Uribe

Treasurer

Ken Ashton

Membership

Jaclyn Kinney

BackBulb

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John OConnell

AOS Representative

Sharon Ashton

May Faire

Coordinator

Carolyn Salmon

Directors

Elizabeth Coelho

Mimi Schramm

Lesley Olsen

Shirley West

P.O. Box 223462

Carmel

CA 93922-3462

Carol's Commentary

The end of the year is almost here – I can't believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner and then Hanukah , Christmas, and New Years. Our last event of the year will be our annual Christmas Party, December 13 at 5 PM at Rancho Canada in Carmel Valley. We will have a wonderful buffet as we did last year beginning with a no host bar at 5 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM. Please support your Orchid Society by filling out the reservation form on page 3 and mail to me Carol Easton at P.O. Box A, Carmel, CA 93921 or call me at 625-1565. Please come out and join us – we will have a fun evening.

Your newly elected Board is ready for the challenges of 2010 and with your help we know that we will have another great year. If you have ideas for improvement or constructive criticism we welcome them – please contact any Board member or myself – our numbers are in the BackBulb.

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and only the best in the New Year.

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.: Kathie Ritter

Show Coordinator: Joanie Linares

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



Cattleya Gertrude Hauserman which is C. Empress Bells x C. Bowbells. From the Nybakken collection.

Upcoming Events

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

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:

Carol Easton, Carmel Orchid Society
Box A
Carmel CA 93921

All About RO H₂O

Don't drink tap water? But you still water your plants with it? Do you know what's in that glass? If not, maybe it's time to think about your water, better water could give you better orchids.

When I lived in Atlanta I was spoiled, Atlanta has great water, almost as good as rain water. Then I moved to Monterey, and almost went into shock, the water is hard! Rather than put my collection into shock, I started buying water from the reverse osmosis (RO) vending machines in front of Safeway.

For my hundred plants I only need about 3 gallons a week, the cost was right, and it wasn't too much hassle. But once the collection started pushing 200, schlepping 6 gallons a week home from the grocery was getting to be quite a hassle, it was time to take the plunge and buy a RO system, but what kind? and from who? There are so many choices, a number of different capacities, a multitude of configurations, and a wide variety of vendors.

Explanations are few and far between, it took me several months of research to finally make a decision. I bought a 100 gal/day 3 stage, tank-less system from Jim's Orchid Supplies. That was four months ago and I have been filtering about 8-10 gallons a week since then. This is what I have learned

about our water and RO.

About the Water

Water chemistry and the reaction plants and animals have to it is a complex subject, one that I am no expert on, so I am going to try to keep this relatively simple centered on the Monterey area's water supply. If you get your water from a well or private water system your water may be better or worse, only testing it will tell. So with that disclaimer out of the way, lets dive in.

The Monterey area has hard water, "hard" is defined as high in dissolved calcium and magnesium. Ironically a water softener makes water "soft" by replacing the calcium and magnesium with sodium (and occasionally potassium) making the resulting soft water is deadly to plants. So hardness alone is not enough, we need to know about all the dissolved minerals: calcium, magnesium, sodium chloride, iron and others. The sum of all these dissolved minerals is called Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) usually measured in Parts Per Million (PPM). Most of the local water supplies ranged from 300-500 PPM TDS, which puts them in the moderately hard to hard categories.

Information on TDS and most

continued on the next page.



continued from the previous page.

everything else in your water can be found in the water quality report that your water utility is required to provide. The table in this document can be confusing, but all the acronyms are explained somewhere in the report. Look mainly for "Total Dissolved Solids" greater than one hundred ppm (Cal Am reports 401 PPM with a range of 130-680 PPM). The major constituents of the dissolved solids are reported as well, they include Chloride, Sodium, Calcium, Magnesium and possibly others. Almost everything on this report will be removed by a good RO system.

So...

Monterey and environs have hard water, unfortunately many orchids are sensitive to dissolved minerals, and we don't make the situation any better by adding fertilizer to the water which is just more salts. Too many salts and dissolved minerals have a generally bad effect on your plants, root tips die, leaf tips brown, in extreme cases the plant will expire. Some orchids are impossible to grow without very pure water. So what can you do?

Deal With It.

Start by not buying many high elevation cloud forest plants, they tend to be very sensitive. The plants you do buy will either live or die (a fairly common orchid culture philosophy). You can give the plants a better chance by watering copiously when you do water. Flooding water through the pots or soaking your mounted

plants will dissolve any left over salts and flush them out. The same routine goes for misting. A little mist will lead to salt buildup on the leaves and the leaves can adsorb the salts.

Don't Deal With It.

You could get rid of your orchids.... but there are better ways. The simplest is to buy Reverse Osmosis (RO) water. Most of the supermarkets have RO water dispensers in front of them selling water for about 30 cents a gallon. This is more than the cost of buying and operating a RO system yourself, but if your collection is small it might be simpler to just buy water when you buy food. If you don't want to lug water back from the grocery you will have to filter it your self, and only RO will do. Forget the little pitcher or faucet filters, activated carbon will make the water more pleasing to drink but will do nothing for the dissolved minerals. An RO system is a completely different kind of filter altogether.

Next month, RO filters.

John



Lc. Blue Boy 'Gainsborough'. Joanie got this one on her Birthday 2 years ago from Maple Thorpe.

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

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	\$25
Couple	\$30	\$35
Vendor	\$30	\$35

Nag, Nag, Nag...

It's **that** time again, time for your otherwise nice, friendly society board members to nag you about paying your membership dues. As much as we would like to have your money to pay for our fabulous monthly speakers, what we really want is for you to come hear the speakers, buy the raffle tickets and take home all the interesting plants on our monthly raffle tables. None of that will happen if you are not interested enough to pay the pittance we ask for or yearly dues. Most orchids that we will kill in less than a year cost more than a years membership! So all we ask is that you pay your dues, come to the meetings and have a wonderful time!



Guanmiao City 'Black Flower'
Rhyncattleanthe Molbeth x
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Chen's
Ruby

2010 Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale

Saturday, Jan 30, 9 AM to 5PM
Sunday, Jan 31, 10 AM to 4 PM

At Soquel High School
410 Old San Jose Road
Soquel, California 95073

Presented by the Santa
Cruz Orchid Society and
the Soquel High School
FFA/ROP

Free Parking
Free Admission

Trisetella hoeijeri ----->

For General
information, call
Soquel High FFA at
831-429-3612, or
Santa Cruz Orchid
Society at
831-426-5631

-American
Orchid Society
Judged Show,
featuring rare
and beautiful
orchids

-Cultural advice
available

-Exotic yet easy
to grow plants
for sale

-Potting
demonstrations

-Raffle



Photo by Frank Drake

The Santa Cruz show is by far the closest show, besides our own, to Monterey. They had a great selection of plants for sale last year, and beautiful plants being displayed.

If you love orchids, you can't miss POE! 70+ vendors, dozens of exhibits, species galore, incredible location on SF bay. Plan to spend all day, stay the night and enjoy San Francisco the next day!





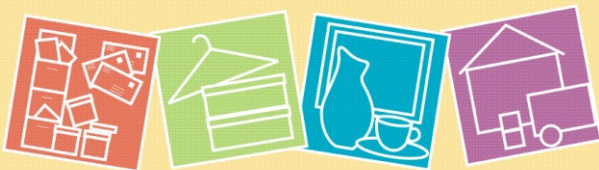
LC Honey from the Hale Collection

Angraecum ??? From the Nybakken collection

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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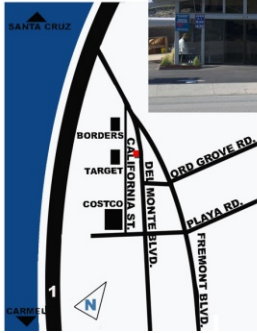
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