

The BackBulb

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

February 2010



February Speaker:

Mary Gerritsen

The Genus Masdevallia

I have been an avid gardener for years, growing a variety of plants, first in my garden in Ridgefield Connecticut, and then 10 years ago, a totally new spectrum of plants in my garden in San Mateo California. Upon my arrival in California, I renewed my interest in Orchids, which I had grown enthusiastically as a post-doctoral fellow during my years at the University of California, San Diego, nearly 20 years previously. My new hobby grew into an obsession, and soon I was growing more orchids than anything else. I grow them in a greenhouse, and outdoors in three lathe structures, as well as here and there in my yard, all over my house and even my office at work. A not-too-brief period of unemployment due to the closure of the biotech company that I worked for started me in my new "hobby career", writing books. My first book dealt with a genus of orchids that was one of my favorites, Masdevallias. This book came about as a confluence of events, the most important of which was a lecture at our local orchid society by Ron Parsons, a renowned orchid (and plants in general) expert and photographer. I was so impressed with his photographs that I exclaimed, your photos should be in a book! And months later they were, as we completed Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World (Timber Press).

The February meeting is on
Monday February 1st, 7PM
At the **Community Church**
of Monterey Peninsula, 4590
Carmel Valley Rd.

1
January Meeting

2
Carol's
Commentary

3
Upcoming Events
4-5

Cymbidium
lancifolium
'Cammie'
CCm/AOS

6
Carmel Valley
Garden Show 2010

7
Membership
Renewal

8-9
A Word From Our
Sponsors

10-11
Local Shows



COS Officers

President

Carol Easton

VP Program

Jaclyn Kinney

Recording

Secretary

Marilyn Uribe

Treasurer

Ken Ashton

Membership

Sharon Ashton

BackBulb

Editor/Webmaster

John OConnell

AOS Representative

Kathie Ritter

Show Coordinator

Joanie Linares

Directors

Elizabeth Coelho

Janette Ford

Lesley Olsen

Shirley West

P.O. Box 223462

Carmel

CA 93922-3462

Carol's Commentary

Recently I was on a Panama Canal Cruise and the stop in Costa Rica offered a tour of an Orchid Farm. Naturally, I took it, however, it was a disappointment. I was hoping to see cattelyas, the Costa Rican National Flower but instead I saw benches full of dendrobiums, oncidiums and catts grown from tiny seedlings imported from Taiwan for the cut flower business. After walking through their growing area which consisted of slatted benches with black shade cloth roofs, I spotted some catts growing in big clumps hanging on posts – this is what I came to see! I took a few pictures and asked our tour guide if she would ask the nursery guide if I could buy some and have them shipped to the States. Never did get an answer and so I assumed the answer was no! Here are some pictures that I took.



Joanie has a great article on page 6 about the Carmel Valley Garden Show (MayFaire) and our preparations. At the next meeting Marilyn Uribe, Voluntee Chair, will be circulating the sign up sheets for this event. Additionally, you may be asked by other Chairpersons to work on their committees. Please help out, you will have a great time. It was a fun event last year even though it was hot. We have put our order in to the weather man for more seasonable weather this year!

We have good news about our meeting site. The lighting problem at the Church has been solved – we have our own lights that one of the board members will bring to each meeting to light us up. Also, another issue with the meeting site, the lack of heat has also been solved. Please join us at our next meeting February 1st at 7 PM – we have another great speaker lined up for you. See you then.

Carol

Upcoming Events

January

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

February

Monday 2/1 7PM COS Meeting. Mary Gerritsen talks about Masdevallias.

2/5-7 Malihini Orchid Show and Sale. Cupertino Square (Valco Park), 10123 N.Wolfe Rd. Cupertino. www.malihini.org

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

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

March

3/12-14 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds Santa Barbara

May

5/1-2 Carmel Valley Garden Show, It may not say orchids, but this is our show!



Cattleyas put a gleam in Shirley West's eye.



"It has done better since I started talking to it"
Jaclyn Kinney

Cymbidium lancifolium 'Cammie', CCM/AOS

This originally appeared in the November 2009 issue of Orchids magazine.

Judges Comments:

Measurements in cm: natural spread 3.1, natural spread vertical 5.2; dorsal sepal width 0.5, dorsal sepal length 2.8; petal width 0.8, petal length 2.2; lateral sepal width 0.7, lateral sepal length 2.9; lip width 0.8, lip length 1.3. Description: Fifty-eight flowers on eight inflorescences evenly displayed around the base of upright green leaves; sepals and petals white with magenta striping and mid-rib striations; lip white with magenta striping and magenta striations midlobe; substance firm; texture matte. Commended for the number of flowers per inflorescence and beautiful arrangement of flowers around base of plant.

Awarded at the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center Speakers Day. Exhibited by John O'Connell. August 8, 2009.



The best stories are often born out of disasters, but this one is about many little things that went right. It started at the 2006 Santa Barbara Orchid Fair, when I bought this *Cymbidium lancifolium* from a grower of bareroot plants. It survived and grew, despite being shipped across the country to the heat and humidity of Atlanta, Georgia, and then being moved to Monterey, California, in 2007.

By the spring of this year, it still had not bloomed so I asked for advice from Dan Newman, proprietor of Hanging Gardens in San Francisco, who told me to put it outside this summer for the cooler night temperatures. It was good advice; a couple of months later I was rewarded with eight spikes on a plant of a species where all the pictures I could find showed only a few flowers.

Eventually the plant bloomed and I took it to the August Carmel Orchid Society meeting where Bruce Rogers, who was speaking on sobralias, complemented me on it. I had already been planning to attend the Sacramento Speakers Day, but I began to think about taking the *Cym. lancifolium* to the judging they were doing at the same time. I needed to spruce up the presentation a little so I put the plant, which is in an ugly makeshift pot, into a wonderful Chinese-style cymbidium container and used some Spanish moss to dress it up.

The day of speakers day started early for me. It is 200 miles (320 km) to

Sacramento from Monterey, and judging started at 9 am. So the cymbidium and I headed up I-5 at a high rate of speed. Fortunately, I did not get lost or stopped, because I arrived just as plant registration was ending. By the end of the day, with my award in hand, I was ready to float home and just marvel at how all the little things went just right.

Since this plant came home, it has been housed in an old alcohol bottle, with holes drilled for drainage. Of course, this is not elegant, but the vessel is tall and narrow, which Chinese cymbidiums do best in due to their long roots. The mix is about two thirds coconut husk with the rest aeroflore (expanded clay pellets) with a little charcoal for aeration. I try to fertilize once or twice a week at quarter to half strength, more in the summer less in winter. Monterey has rather hard water and I have invested in a reverse-osmosis (RO) system for the orchids. Until this summer, I grew this plant inside under my metal halide grow light, but it appears that I will be summering it outside in my polyethylene covered greenhouse from now on.

John O'Connell has been growing an increasing number of orchids for seven years, favoring species plants with interesting foliage, miniatures and flowers that are pointy, striped, spotted or otherwise unusual in some way. He is the newsletter editor and webmaster for the Carmel Orchid Society

The Story of the Story

Of course the story didn't end with the award. One of the judges had heard that I had come all the way from "Carmel" and arrived just as registration was closing and had posted that with the award photo on the AOS judges forum. Meanwhile I had emailed Kath Barrett about my award, and besides complementing me on the plant mentioned the "drove from Carmel arrived in the nick of time" story she had heard and that the plant might be featured in Orchids magazine. I replied with the rest of the story. Shortly I heard from Greg Allikas, chairman of the AOS Publications Committee, who confirmed that the plant would appear and asked me to flesh out the story since it was so interesting and could I have it in a week? Of course I could! I wrote the story and sent it to Jim Watson the editor of Orchids and he asked me for cultural and biographical information. A week later a proof arrived and less than a month after that the magazine finally arrived in my mail box, WOW looks good!



John

Carmel Valley Garden Show 2010

2010 is upon us and our annual orchid event is gearing up once again. Many of your board members have already been hard at work for the past 4 months attending meetings and preparing for this event. Thank You...Thank You...!!!

I want to share some of the new and exciting changes ahead. As most of you know, we were guests of the Carmel Valley Garden Association last year for their one day annual flower show at Hidden Valley Music Seminar. It was such a success for both groups that we officially joined forces and have renamed the event to the "Carmel Valley Garden Show". The show will return to Hidden Valley for the first weekend in May and will be a 2 day event. The dates will be **Saturday May 1st and Sunday the 2nd from 9 AM to 4 PM**. This year's theme is "Sustainable". We are also adding a spectacular Gala Event Saturday evening from 6:00 - 8:30 to showcase the awarded flowers and orchids. The Gala will be under the expertise of Elizabeth Coelho complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, music, and a special raffle event. Hidden Valley has graciously handed off the Gala allowing the proceeds from this event to be shared by both clubs. Tickets are \$25 and there will be more information as we draw closer. Carol Easton has been busy with advertising and lining up some of our favorite vendors from last year like John Leathers, and Sue Hamilton. We will also be selling our

own purchased orchids and member plants. Here is a sample of some of CVGA's vendors. Sierra Azul, Rana Creek, Martins Irrigation, Bokay, and Geraniaceae a small nursery in Marin County, California specializing in some of the plants of the Geranium family. Amanda McLean is doing another lively auction so please start thinking of things you wish to donate. I am coordinating field of flowers again this year and I will be asking any and all members to participate. You do not need to be an "artist". I am far from it and will create one using the sustainable theme. John O'Connell is creating our orchid exhibit and will need lots of lovely orchids. Jackie Kinney and John will be coordinating ribbon judging for our exhibit so it is not too early to begin preparing your plants for the show. John is also doing some wonderful lectures for our event..."Orchids for Brown Thumbs" and "The Wild World of Orchids". There will be a café with BBQ delights for sale prepared by the local volunteer fire departments of Carmel Valley and Cachagua. Marilyn Uribe is our volunteer chairperson this year and will be initiating the signup sheets at the next meeting. We need everyone to participate to make this event successful and fun. This is just a sampling of all the fun we are planning and ways to raise money for our society. I will keep you posted as the time grows near. Please contact me if you have any questions.

**Joanie Linares winecow@gmail.com
or 595-4456**

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

2010 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Sharon Ashton 26966 Laureles Grade Road Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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"/>

Membership Time Again

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!

Goodies Sign Up for February

Evelyne Anzini - Good Goodies

Sylvia Langland - Cookies

Kathie Ritter - Cookies



"I got this...and then...and I almost lost it"



"...and then it bloomed!" Lesley Olsen

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 johnnoconnell19@att.net.

And now a word from our sponsors...



**CAMMIE JONES
ORGANIZING**
Home & Office Design Solutions

Home & Office Organizing
Personal Assisting
Home Decor Consulting
Affordable Window treatments

**"Got a room that needs HELP!
Then make room for Cammie!"**

For more information Contact:
Cammie Jones
831-319-8419
cjorganizing@gmail.com

PACIFIC SMOG

SINCE 1991 **NO APPOINTMENT**



VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION
2039 DEL MONTE BLVD.
SEASIDE, CA 93955
899-8877
OPEN M-F 8-5 Sat 8-1



KEN ASHTON

pacificsmog.com

Linares Plumbing



New Construction ♦ Remodels ♦ Repairs ♦ Water Heaters

Lyle Linares
Owner for over 30 years

P. O. Box 221071, Carmel, California, 93922

Phone/Fax 831.659.3408 Cell 831.214.1140

License #423580



CARNAVAL!

San Francisco Orchid Society's
58th Annual

PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION
FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2010
America's Finest Orchid Show

Gala Benefit FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 6:30 TO 10:00 PM, Details on Reverse

EARLY BIRD PREVIEW, FRIDAY, FEB. 26 from 9-10 AM (\$20, Tickets good through 5:00 Friday)

SHOW & PLANT SALE
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - 28
Hours: **FRI. 10AM - 5PM, SAT. 9AM - 6PM, SUN. 10AM - 5PM**

FORT MASON CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO

Admission \$12 online/\$14 at the door, Seniors (65+) \$8 online/\$10 at the door
Children 12 & under free w/adult except at Gala
Parking \$10 at Marina Middle School, Fri. evening, Sat. & Sun., 3500 Fillmore, entrance between
Moscone Park & the school. Complimentary shuttle to the Pacific Orchid Exposition.
For tickets & information please visit

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
or call 415-665-2468

Cymbidium Piñata Watercolor by Sally Robertson
A California Non-Profit Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Corporation



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!

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.