

# The BackBulb

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

March 2010



## March Speaker: Ron McHatton, Ph. D.

### The Orchids of Madagascar

Ron, a PhD Chemist by training, is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the American Orchid Society and its Director of Education. Having grown orchids for over 46 years, he's been

exposed to just about every facet of the hobby. Prior to working for the AOS he was production manager for one of the largest wholesale orchid nurseries in the United States. Ron has an eclectic collection of plants representing a wide cross-section of the orchid family. His passion for orchids has spanned virtually every growing regime from windowsills to under lights to greenhouses running from a 200 square foot hobby house to several acres of commercial growing space. Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2500 plants. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and has been volunteering for the AOS for over 25 years. During that time, Ron chaired several national committees, twice held a seat on the organization's Board of Trustees and briefly served as vice-president. In addition to Ron's volunteer support of the AOS, he has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

Ron's presentation is entitled "Orchids of Madagascar".

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

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## Carmel Valley Garden Show, Volunteers Needed

The chairpersons for the show have been working feverishly for months already and NOW it is your time to step up and help out with our only fund raiser of the year. What could be nicer than to be outdoors in Carmel Valley with friends working for a good cause and having fun at the same time? Sign up sheets are circulating at the General Meeting; however, some members do not attend and are missing out. I am providing the shifts below for these folks to study and phone me directly at 659-3260 or e-mail me at marilynuribe@comcast.net. I encourage you to sign up for several 4 hour shifts. WE NEED ALL OF YOU. If I do not hear from members I will be calling you directly so PLEASE get out your personal calendars and write COS in NOW. You will be assigned your duty the day of the shows with particular expertise and abilities kept in mind. Thank you in advance.

### Marilyn Uribe, COS Volunteer Chair

Set up day - Friday April 30 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-4:30

Show day - Saturday May 1 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-4:30

Gala Set Up - Saturday, special shift 4:00-6:00

Show day - Sunday, May 2 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-4:30

## Carol's Commentary

In case you missed our February meeting Joanie, our Garden Show Coordinator announced the return of the MEMBER SALES TABLE at our Carmel Valley Garden show. Janette Ford will be the Chairperson. This is a perfect time to survey your collection to see what you can part with (my biggest problem), divide or just sell because you don't do well with them in your growing conditions. There is an article elsewhere in this issue of the BB with guidelines for submitting your plants. If you have any questions, please call myself or Janette.

Please start watching your plants and babying them to see who will be blooming in May. My plant that was best in show last year looks like it may bloom early this year unfortunately. It has 12 new sheaths, last year, it only had 4. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

<http://cvgardenshow.com>

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

The Carmel Valley Garden Show Committee is working hard to make sure we have a great 2 day show this year. We should have our postcards at our March meeting, if not then, definitely in April. We will appreciate you all taking some cards and distributing them to your favorite places, i.e., restaurants, MD offices, beauty shops, vets and so on. Please sign up to volunteer for the Show at the next meeting. Volunteers are one of our most important aspects of the show. Without you, we cannot do it. Thanks for participating - I promise you will have a great time.

**Carol**



Rossioglossum grande, from Jim Nybbaken's collection, unfortunately won't make it to the show.

## Upcoming Events

### February

2/26-28 SFOS Pacific Orchid Exhibition, Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco. [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe](http://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!

## **Show Off Your Orchids!**

### **Carmel Valley Garden Show 2010**

One of the major attractions at the Carmel Valley Garden Show Orchid Show and Sale has always been the members display. This year, as last year, we will have a very special display of many varieties of blooming orchids in the theater of the Hidden Valley Music Center. In order to create the splendor of orchids for which the Carmel Orchid Society is famous, we need your contributions!

The display will be assembled on Friday afternoon and plants should be brought to the Hidden Valley Music Center, Friday, April 30th between 11AM and 5PM. The show opens at 9am on Saturday morning, May 1st and the display must be in place!

Members are requested to bring their plants in an attractive container or basket. The plants must have the leaves cleaned and free of pests as the volunteers will not be able to do this. The Society volunteers will place a sign on the plant stating its name, lineage, etc. If you cannot bring the plants in yourself, please contact John OConnell and we will find some one to get the plants there.

At the conclusion of the show the display will be disassembled and the plants will be available from where the Plant Sale table was located during the show. No plants are available until 4:30pm on Sunday, May 2nd.

The Guidelines that have been adopted for the Carmel Valley Garden Show include:

1. All plants are pest and disease free.
2. The leaves are clean and attractive .
3. Plant is blooming to display its special attributes.
4. The pot (unless mounted) is attractive or covered by an attractive outer container.
5. Plants must be staked and secured appropriately, if needed.

Members must pick up their plants promptly at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 2nd

because there is no storage or security for plants that are left after the show is concluded. We hope that members will be available at that time anyway to help in closing the show and assisting with clean up. Many hands make light work for all! See you there!

**Carol**



An alternative to the decorative pot for a Dracula. I have never seen chopsticks used quite this way before. Seen at the Santa Cruz show.



## Orchid Talk

As you read this, there will be signs of spring everywhere. The sun angle is changing rapidly now. It is time to consider hanging your shade cloth again and adjust your indoor orchids further away from your windows as the sun's rays become more intense. Your cymbidiums may have been blooming for months with more spikes developing. New roots and new growth is appearing on your orchids inside or outdoors. Begin fertilizing your cymms with a high nitrogen fertilizer in April to encourage the new shoots to mature by fall. Increase your watering and fertilizing routines for your other orchids as well, especially those that have finished their dry winter rest. I began repotting my draculas and masdevallias in February while the weather is still cool.

These cool growing orchids do not need the extra stress on top of the stress they feel during the warmer months ahead. Baby slugs and snails will be out in force, so step up your controls now.

This is orchid show season and many of you will bring home new orchids. I have learned over the years to get pretty picky about the orchids I purchase. I rather pay more for a larger, well established plant than one newly divided into a 'three leaf wonder' or a 2 inch seedling which may take another 3 to 5 years to

bloom. One notable grower told me once to purchase good sized plants so that after it acclimates, you have something left! If you buy a bareroot orchids, soak it for a couple days in purified water with some Super Thrive, before potting. The orchids are usually stressed due to their travel. I ask the vendor how and where the orchid was grown so I can imitate those conditions as closely as possible while the orchid adjusts to its new environment. I also give them a good systemic spray and keep them away from my other orchids till I know I haven't introduced new bugs or bacteria into the rest of my collection. I keep a record of my orchid purchases to some extent. I like to buy orchids I have never heard of, come home and look them up on the internet, get a picture of their flowers and some idea of their culture.



Dendrobium speciosum, Best of seemingly everything at the Santa Cruz Orchid Show.

The internet is such a valuable tool in learning about orchids. When I have spare time on a rainy day, I will casually browse through other society's newsletters. There is such a variety of formats packed with cultural info. Some even summarize their speaker's lectures. One society website I can recommend is the Cymbidium Society of America. Their web

address is [cymbidium.org](http://cymbidium.org). Membership is 35.00 a year which includes a subscription to the CSA Journal. Their focus includes cymms, paphiopedalums and other cool growing orchids. Jeff Trimble, the

current President, lives in the Bay Area. The website is informative with lots of cultural info and good related links.

As you may already know, member orchid sales is coming back to our garden show in May. NOW is the time to repot or divide plants you wish to sell. They need at least 2 months to

establish themselves in a new pot or mix. Some of my best success has come from our members plants. They will be acclimated and not have undergone the stress of long distance travel. I look forward to shopping!!!!

**Carolyn Salmon**

## **Selling Orchids At the Carmel Valley Garden Show**

This is a good time of year to decide which plants you would like to sell at the Carmel Valley Garden Show (formerly known as the Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire). Perhaps you have more than one of a specific plant or you need to downsize your collection so that you can buy more during the Carmel Valley Garden Show. Members (only members) of the Carmel Orchid Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the CVGS. Plants, which are presented for sale, must be disease and pest-free and attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself.... Would I buy this plant?

Janette Ford is in charge of the Plant Table this year - thank you Janette. She has asked us to remind members to.....

1. Fill out the sales tag as completely as possible. A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.
2. Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot. This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them and creates problems in reading the tags.
3. Bring the plants on Friday afternoon, April 30th between 12noon and 5pm. There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received.
4. Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:00pm on Sunday, May 2nd or they will be discarded or donated. The Society can not be responsible for plants not picked up at the designated time.

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references - pedigree - are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Society Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted.

A portion of each sale goes to COS and is one of our primary fund-raisers during the year. If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the CVGC, please sign up at the March or April meeting. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member for help when you bring them in.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Member of the American Orchid Society ☐

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter	
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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 March

Carolyn Salmon - cookies

Emelita Harvey - cookies

Sylvia Langland - cookies

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

I saw Tom speak at the World Orchid Conference a couple of years ago, he is quite knowledgeable about Bulbophyllums and a very funny guy. **John**

## **Hello Orchid Enthusiasts;**

I have written a new book on Bulbophyllums entitled: Bulbophyllums; The Incomplete Guide, From A to WHY? Hardback, 250 pages, over 350 color photos and top quality paper mean this book will give you lots of information and last for years with heavy use, which I hope it will get. It covers culture extensively (I just got my 31st Cultural Award in the Bulbo Alliance), species, new hybrids, growing from seed and clears up (I hope) some problems with identification in a few species. It is written in a humorous manner that I have been told keeps the reader entertained and helps to retain the information more betterer.

It sells for \$44.95, (plus \$5 S&H to the US) and AOS or ODC members get a 10% discount. It also comes as a CD (the book in digital form [a PDF file]) for \$19.95 (\$15 if you get them both).

Please send me your address and I will send it/them out to you promptly. Send me a check when you receive your package.

Bill Thoms, 1605 Palace Court Valrico, FL 33594  
1-813-684-4101 [dukesthoms@verizon.net](mailto:dukesthoms@verizon.net)

## **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](mailto:johnnoconnell19@att.net).

## **And now a word from our sponsors...**



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**[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)**  
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## Carmel Valley Garden Show

**May 1 & 2, 2010**

An extraordinary 2 day event for garden enthusiasts and art lovers at Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts in Carmel Valley

Free Admission  
9am to 4pm

Plus "Summer When it Sizzles" Our Saturday Night Gala \$25

**NEW** FLOWER & ORCHID ENTRY DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 30

[www.cvgardenshow.com](http://www.cvgardenshow.com)

Carmel Orchid Society & Carmel Valley Garden Association Present

## Carmel Valley Garden Show

**May 1 and 2, 2010 9am-4pm Free Admission**

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Submit entries at Hidden Valley on Friday April 30, 12pm to 7pm  
Private judging Saturday 9am to 12pm, then exhibit opens to the public.  
All other activities open during judging.

Plant & Orchid & Sales / Field of Flowers Art Auction  
Silent Auction & Raffle / Lectures & Demos / Art & Craft Vendors  
Volunteer Fire Department BBQ / Children's Discovery Garden

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A bounty of gourmet hors d'oeuvres and fine wine (first glass free).  
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Silent Auction and Raffle also open for bidding.  
Saturday May 1, 6-8:30pm at Hidden Valley. Tickets \$25  
Call 831-659-3115 (credit card only) or purchase at the door (cash or check only)



Conveniently located at Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts  
88 W. Carmel Valley Road at Ford Road in Carmel Valley  
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