

# The BackBulb

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

August 2010



## COS Road Trip!

Instead of an August meeting, we will be skipping town and heading up to Half Moon Bay and Pacifica to visit three well known growers. This is a great opportunity to visit 3 amazing greenhouses, talk to some of the best orchid growers in the Bay area and buy some very cool plants. We will be visiting:



Hawk Hill Orchids (below) and Hanging Gardens (above).

The next meeting is on **Monday September 13th, 7PM** at the **Community Church of Monterey Peninsula**. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

- \* **Hanging Gardens** - Dan Newman has an amazing collection of plants, many cool growing for those of you with unheated greenhouses.
- \* **Hawk Hill Orchids** - John Leathers, Bob Hamilton, and Gary Meyer grow Masdevallia species and hybrids, Draculas and other Pleurothallids.
- \* **D & D Flowers** - Dennis Olivas grows a little bit (maybe a lot) of almost everything that will survive in his unheated greenhouse.



**When:** Saturday August 14th. Meet at 8:30AM ready to leave by 9.

**Where:** The Seaside Home Depot parking lot, down near the traffic light.

**Transportation:** Car pooling, hopefully nobody needs to drive up alone. Drivers generally welcome donations to cover gas money.

1

August Road Trip

2

Upcoming Events

3

The Times They Are  
a-Changing

4

Orchid Talk

6

Membership  
Renewal  
A Word From Our  
Sponsors

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**Lunch:** Two choices: Bring your own and eat in the shade near Dan's greenhouse in Pacifica, or convince your driver to stop so you can grab some fast food on the way from Half Moon Bay to Pacifica.

**In case of problems:** Call John's cell phone **770-617-1058**, we will wait a few minutes for you.

**Directions:** (in case you want meet us but not drive with us)

**D&D Flowers** (Dennis Olivas) is located in Half Moon Bay Just East of Main Street. From the East on Hwy. 92 there is a house and firewood business. Turn onto the street between the house and firewood business and go over the bridge into the greenhouse complex. D&D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you go beyond the large dinosaur statues in front of the house and Spanish Town and you are at Main Street, you've gone too far. Google Maps says it's 106 miles to Half Moon Bay via US-101, CA-85, I-280, CA-92, almost 2 hours driving time.

From Half Moon Bay, Pacifica is 14 miles North on CA-1. The greenhouses of **Hanging Gardens** and **Hawk Hill Orchids** are at the Shelldance Nursery site. The driveway is on the inland side of CA Highway 1, 3/10 of a mile north of Reina Del Mar Avenue the driveway is marked by an orange sign that says "Orchids". Follow the driveway up the hill to the dirt parking lot at the top.

## Upcoming Events

### August

No regular August meeting!

8/7 CA Sierra Nevada Judging Center Speakers Day Sacramento  
<http://www.csnjc.org/>

**8/14 Saturday, COS Road Trip to Pacifica**, Half Moon Bay.

### September

9/11-12 Orchids in the park. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

**9/13 Monday, COS meeting, Flea Market! Note the date:**  
Due to the conflict with Labor Day the meeting will be a week later than usual.

## The Times They Are a- Changing...

Bob Dylan wrote the song is the turbulent 60's, but it seems just as true today. The world of orchids and your orchid society is changing and needs to change to not get run over.

The challenges that the COS faces are not devastating, we still have money in the bank, and we still have a small group of members willing to spend their time and energy to promote orchids and the COS. What we do face is a declining membership and a decrease in participation in COS events like the Christmas party, Summer BBQ, and monthly meetings. Another challenge is filling COS board positions, this year four board members are stepping down and several key jobs will need to be filled by different people.

If you are interested in filling one of these openings, please don't be bashful, you don't need to be an orchid guru to be on the board. All it takes is an interest in orchids, a willingness to do some work and the

desire to have some fun.

New faces on the board will probably be only the beginning of the changes. The board seems to be moving away from some of the big time consuming, to plan and execute, functions of the past and is willing to try some new lower key events. So the August Road

Trip is in, the

summer BBQ is out. The Christmas party is looking like it will receive a major make over in light of last years attendance. So start looking for new fun events, and if you have ideas or comments, NOW is a good time to tell your board members. Better yet, volunteer to work on something new and exciting, there is no better way to make your idea come to life then to step up and make it happen.

**John**

Board members email addresses can be found at:

<http://www.carmelorchidsociety.org/membership.html>

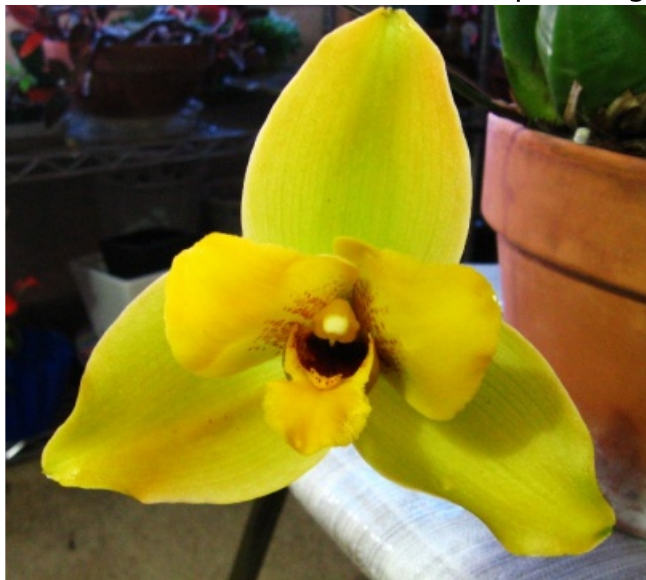


John's *Lycaste aromatica* was a little late blooming this year, but it made up for it in sheer quantity of flowers, around 30, and 7 new growths. This was his 3rd orchid when he bought it at the '01 Atlanta Orchid Show.



## Orchid Talk

When I look at the calendar, it tells me that it is summer. We have so many micro climates in our area, that I know some of you are enjoying summer temps. In my neighborhood, it has been mostly overcast and around 64 degrees. So my biggest worry is powdery mildew. So what to do with our orchids? Some society members have been busy repotting their plants. For the cattleyas, if the new roots are showing on the newer growths, go for it. It is too late to do your cymbidiums if you want blooms this winter. They should be setting their buds in late August and September on their newest growths. So keep up the high nitrogen fertilizer. My masdevallias haven't been experiencing ANY heat stress, so I have repotted some. I am always tweaking my mixes. For the masdes I am using fine bark, charcoal, and small lava rock that Dennis Reiphenburg uses. I have found that the sphagnum moss is deteriorating very quickly for the masdes in the greenhouse. For your FYI. I again asked Granite Rock in Seaside to bring over a couple tons of 3/8 inch red lava rock and it arrived on Wednesday. So load up if you need some. It is way cheaper than bark and I have had



good luck with it so far in my mixes especially for the cymbidiums.

I did go shopping at the Monterey Bay Horticulture Supply in Marina. They are located at 218 Reindollar just off Del Monte in the back of a service center. They have the most amazing selection of garden goodies. All kinds of organics including worm castings and soil inoculates to add beneficial fungi for root hair growth. I also came home with glacial rock dust to improve the mineral content of my soil. I am putting it in my contain plants too since potting soil is so sterile. I am making an effort to go as organic as possible to mimic orchids natural growing conditions as close as I can. Maybe the Phalenopsises would like their Phillipe bat guano? The owners

are friendly and share lots of good advice.

Joanie Linares and I each purchased portable R/O water systems and they are up and running. US Water Systems are as very helpful on line vendor whose prices can't be beat with free shipping. Our

systems were \$129.99. Their website is <http://uswatersystems.com>.

It is nearing the height of bug season where the reproductive cycles are very quick. I have found a few tiny baby slugs in my greenhouse along with some aphids hiding in new growths

which they have ruined. I take my greenhouse in sections and pick up each orchid to inspect it closely. That's when I have found a slug on the bottom or side of a pot hiding under the rim. A closed leaf will be hiding other little critters like aphids, but the rubbing alcohol takes care of them quickly. I found a big snail sleeping right next to my paph right in the mix. He was fat and must have been feasting on my precious orchids. Errrr.

We are having our annual flea market again this year at our Sept 13th general meeting. Repot and divide plants now to bring extra plants to share with our fellow members. You are not limited to orchids this year so look around the garden and closets too!

**Carolyn Salmon**



An unknown Stanhopia species that bloomed 2 weeks too late to have Dr. Jenny identify it at our July meeting.

## CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

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

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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	
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Vendor	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>

## 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](mailto:johnoconnell19@att.net).

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