

The BackBulb

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

November 2010



November Meeting: Dan Newman

The Myriad Maxillarias

Maxillaria is one of the most widespread and diverse orchid genera of Tropical America. It contains many spectacular, large-flowered species along with an assortment of charming miniatures, and innumerable species of intermediate size. Plant habit is extremely varied, with some species having clustered, pseudobulbous growths similar to *Oncidiums*, some with tall, monopodial stems reminiscent of *Vandas*, and still others with growths distantly held on a rambling rhizome, like many of the *Bulbophyllums*. There are hot-growing species from the tropical lowlands, cold growers from the high slopes of the Andes, and many adaptable, intermediate growers from moderate elevations in the mountains of Central and South America.

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

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A few species, such as the coconut-scented *M. tenuifolia*, have long been popular in orchid collections.

Many other beautiful members of the genus have only become available within the last decade or two, largely through the Central and South American vendors who bring plants for sale at orchid shows in the U.S.

Fortunately, most of these more recent introductions are now being grown from seed and division, both domestically and by nurseries in Tropical America, enabling hobbyists to acquire plants without fear of contributing to the decimation of wild populations.

The presentation will illustrate some of



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the diverse forms of this fascinating genus in the context of the regions where they occur, and provide cultural information based on one grower's experience. It will also touch very lightly on the thorny subject of taxonomy!

Dan Newman started growing orchids in 1982. His first successful subject was a Dendrobium hybrid bought as a tiny seedling at a lei stand in the Honolulu Airport. When that plant finally grew up and bloomed a few years later, he was hooked! By 1996 he had 350 orchids in a one-bedroom apartment. That year he moved his plants into a rented commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. He took over the large species collection of his friend and "orchid mentor", Walter Teague, and his hobby evolved into his nursery, Hanging Gardens. Dan started growing orchids full-time in 2000, and moved to a larger greenhouse in Pacifica a few years later. He currently has 10,000 to 12,000 plants, mostly cool to intermediate growers (it's hard to maintain warm conditions in Pacifica!). This number includes a few hybrids, but the great majority are species.

Dan joined the San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987, and served as president of that organization in 1996/97. In recent years, he has spoken on a variety of topics for the Carmel Orchid Society and other horticultural groups in California.



Upcoming Events

November

11/1 Monday November Meeting, Dan Newman speaks about Maxilarias.

11/6,7 Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House.

11/15 COS board meeting, Carol's House. 7PM

11/26,27 Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale

December

12/6 Monday, COS Holiday Party.

Carol's Commentary

November is fast approaching and you know what that means - COS Election Time is here. The Slate of Officers is as follows:

- President: **John O'Connell**
- Vice President: **Kathie Ritter**
- Treasurer: **Ken Ashton**
- Membership Chairperson: **Sharon Ashton**
- Recording Secretary: **Janette Ford**
- Garden Show Chairperson, AOS Representative: **Joanie Linares**
- Directors: **Lesley Olson, Carol Easton**

As noted in the October BackBulb, there are still 2 Director positions open. If you have never held office or if you would like to again, please get in touch with one of the Board Members before November 1. Being a Board Member is fun, you get to know your fellow members and you learn even more about orchids. How can you lose!! If you decide not to volunteer for a Director slot, please come to the November 1 meeting to vote for our new Board.



Carol's Lalia Purpurata.

Our next Social Event will be our Christmas Party. It will be at the Church, our regular meeting place on December 6, at 7 PM. We will not be having a speaker - we all will be the program! There will be a blooming orchid for each one of us as well as a well stocked raffle table. We will have finger food and we will ask each of you to bring some of your favorite holiday goodies. Please watch for further details in our next BackBulb.

See you at 7 PM on November 1, 2010 at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula on Carmel Valley Road at our next meeting.

Carol

Speakers and Programs for 2011

It is time to start lining up programs for next year. If you have topics you would like to see covered by a speaker, or a favorite speaker you would like to have come back or a type of program you would like to see happen (things like demos on repotting or the inside scoop on green houses etc.) please let Kathie Ritter know at 626-1120 or mine7233@sbcglobal.net.

Kathie

Scenes from the October meeting.

Left - Emelita makes it look easy.

Center - Deric makes it look simple

Right - Fred Clarke makes it look great.

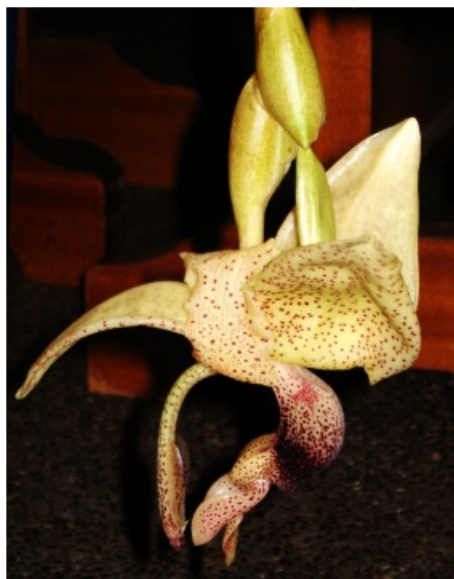


Membership Time!

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!



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

2011 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 _____

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If you were referred by a current member, please provide

his/her name _____

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



Just a few of the incredible number of plants in Dan Newman's greenhouse.

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.

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