

The BackBulb

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

December 2010

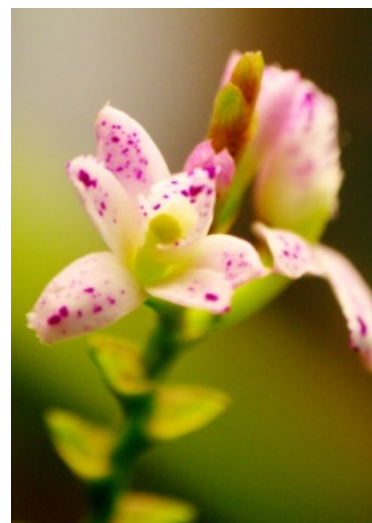


COS Holiday Pot-luck

This year we will have our holiday get together on our regular meeting night, Monday December 6, at our regular meeting place, the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. By popular demand this party will be a pot luck, so if you think there will be too many potatoes, bring a green vegetable. If you don't care for pasta, bring a salad. If there are too many desserts, we will all enjoy!

The December meeting is on **Monday December 6th, 6:30PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

- * Plan to bring a dish that will serve eight to ten people and include a serving utensil if needed.
- * There are some members who are vegetarian, so if you bring a dish that has meat, please mark it as such, or we can put a tag by it that evening.
- * Drinks will be provided by COS (unless you have a special holiday recipe that you would like to share).
- * Arrive at 6:30, so we will have time to set everything up.
- * Members, spouses, friends are invited to attend.
- * Each COS member (paid their 2010 dues) who attends will be given one special raffle ticket. These special tickets will be drawn first so that each member present receives an orchid.
- * There will also be a regular raffle table. We hope to have a nice variety of plants available, including Cymbidiums.
- * Bring plants for Show and Tell!



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Carmel

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Upcoming Events

December

12/6 Monday, COS Holiday Party.

January

1/3 Monday COS January Meeting.

1/8-9 Orchids Under the Oaks, Show & Sale, Alden Lane
Nursery, Livermore CA

1/17 COS board meeting, John's house.

1/22-23 Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale, San Mateo
Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

1/30-31 Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show and Sale, Soquel
Highschool, Soquel, CA

February

2/5-7 Malihini Orchid society, Annual Show and Sale, Cupertino
Square Cupertino, CA

COS On the Web

As many of you know The COS has a website:

carmelorchidsociety.org take a look, all the BackBulbs from the
past 6 years are there. Now it also has a [FaceBook page](#). So
check out Joanie and the gang over at facebook.

Carol's Commentary

After nearly 3 years as President, this is my last Commentary. Much has happened during this time. Our membership has declined due to moves from the Peninsula, illnesses and loss of interest in orchids (I can't imagine that). The economy forced us to change our meeting place. We also could not sustain our MayFaire in its original format and after trying two years at the American Tin Cannery, we decided to join forces with the Carmel Valley Garden Club. We are now half of the Carmel Valley Flower Show. Greenhouse Tours also were suspended because of the bus rental expense.

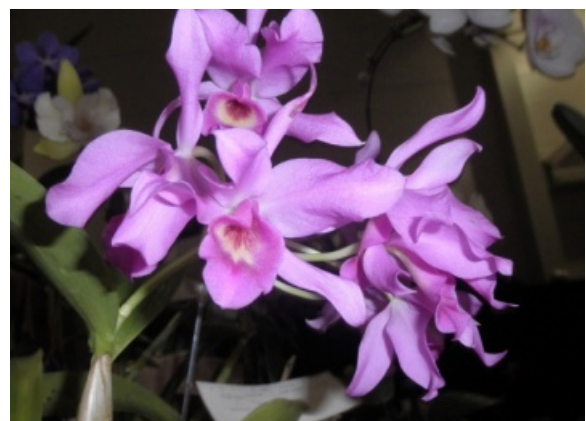
Due to poor attendance at our Rancho Canada Christmas Party as well as concerns about expense, this year we decided to do something different. Although it was stated in a previous Back Bulb that we were having a Christmas Cookie Exchange at our December meeting the membership voted to have a Potluck Dinner instead. Please see the info elsewhere in the BB regarding those details.

In the New Year, we all need to work at signing up new members or our organization will not survive. Survival is up to all of us. If we each brought in 1 new member or had an inactive member renew, our membership would be healthy again. If you have ideas on how to increase membership, please contact our Membership Chairperson, Sharon Ashton and if you have other ideas on how to help our organization, please contact your new President, John O'Connell.

Over the past 3 years I have enjoyed your friendships and support. I will be remaining on the Board as a Director and look forward to seeing you all in the future spreading the word about orchids. Thanks again.

Carol

From the 2010 Richmond, B.C.
Orchid Show



Orchid Talk

Our Indian Summer became winter very suddenly this year. I am hoping the shock is not too stressful on our orchids. Shock does not always show up immediately, but waits until you think everything is okay. THEN the leaves turn yellow and drop. During the nice weather I spent hours getting the greenhouse ready for winter. For me that has meant taking orchids outside individually to water deeply, check for pest and remove or kill them, spray with a systemic, fertilize and water deeply. Some cattleya may need re-potting if their roots are new and over the pot's edge. It appears that our seasons have shifted by about three weeks to one month. I used to say orchids winter rest began at Halloween and ended Valentine's Day. I think this year Thanksgiving to the Ides of March is more accurate. I noted how late our spring was this past year as well. This winter rest will apply to many dendrobiums and cygnoche types. I also cut way back on my watering in general, particularly the cattleya types. I may water them about every three weeks depending upon the pot size. It is time to be most diligent about the over hygiene for our plants. Remove any debris that could rot in the cold. For our orchids inside, you may need to watch for dry conditions and

augment your humidity with trays. Winter sun is not so burning to our plants, so you may wish to move them closer to your windows for the additional light.

Cymbidiums have already begun to spike and bloom. If you can place them out of the rain, your flowers will last longer and you can control the moisture inside the mix more effectively. They may need water once every two to three weeks depending upon the pot size. The bulbs will tell the story. If they begin to wrinkle the plant wants more water. It is a good time to check your spikes and train them upright. I may nudge a winecork

underneath a horizontal spike early on to encourage upright growth. If you use stakes, start tying at the bottom to avoid breaking the spike altogether. The slugs and snails will be out in this wet weather, so don't forget to bait. This fall I have added some worm castings as a top dressing on my cymbidiums. I remember that was Howard Strauss's suggestion some time ago. I used them this

summer in my other gardens and my plants exploded in new growth! You can purchase bags at Monterey Horticultural Supply in Marina. Lots of other great products there too!

My cool growing masdevallias are starting their new growth and spikes



Cattleya Ginny Champion 'Prince'

now. At the same time the older leaves are turning yellow and dropping. Keep those orchids clean as they hate debris around them. Slugs like to eat their flowers too, so I bait them as well. I have found tiny slugs clamped to the side or underneath a pot, so lift them up for inspection occasionally. I have taken my outdoor masdevallia down to the high 30's where they are right by the house, but it gets tricky. Watch for severe cold and take them in or the leaves can fall off all at once. My masdes have enjoyed purified water for a few months with very dilute fertilizer and I think they are doing better. They look greener with more spikes. Most of my masdes are species which are more challenging to grow and flower.

I have enjoyed my most successful year with my cattleya. Aside from repotting many of them two years ago, I gave them Cranford's pelletized compost as a top dressing in June. The jury is still out, but I have more blooms than ever. Jim Cranford had a booth at the Carmel Valley Garden Show this past year.

Speaking of the Garden Show - I am putting together a perspective vendor list that can include orchid growers, artists, plant growers and nurseries. If you have suggestions or personal contacts for folks who may be interested in participating, let me know at cargie@yahoo.com

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Pot Luck. Good eats and good orchids!!!

Carolyn Salmon



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"/>

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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