

The BackBulb

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

June 2011



June Speaker: Gwen Watson

A Tour through the Weird and Wonderful of White Oak Orchids

Gwen will conduct a photo tour through the White Oak Orchids greenhouses, where we should meet all manner of wierd and wonderful plants and learn a little about how to grow them.

Gwen Watson of White Oak Orchids has been enchanted by orchids since she met her first cattleya as a teenager. She has been growing, photographing, painting and designing with orchids for nearly 30 years. Along with her husband, Scott Dallas, they run White Oak Orchids, a full service orchid company that provides sales and shipping of rare and unusual orchids, boarding services for the San Francisco Bay area and orchid installation and deisgn services for nearly every venue. There will be a brief potting demo before the meeting. We will start at about 6:30.

The next meeting is on **Monday June 6th, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

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The COS exhibit at the CVGS in May

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Upcoming Events

June

6/3 San Jose Orchid Exposition Preview Party

6/4-5 San Jose Orchid Exposition

6/6 Monday COS meeting 7PM. Gwen Watson will give "A Tour through the Weird and Wonderful of White Oak Orchids". **Come at 6:30PM for a potting demo.**

6/20 COS board meeting.

July

7/4 Monday COS meeting. Larry Moskovitz will speak about "Bizarre Species: Fascinating Pollination Strategies".

7/8-10 Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair.
Santa Barbara



John's Psychopsis was just bairly open for the show, looks great now.

Transitions

Going... Going... Gone

The Show. For those working on it, it dominated the first part of the year. From my perspective it was a good show: lots of beautiful orchids, good vendors with interesting plants, good food, lots of people looking at and asking questions about the orchids on display, I sold most of the plants I put up sale, and the one glitch (Sunday morning rain) didn't turn into a real disaster.

Show Season. Hope you made to more than just our show, there were some good ones. I made it to POE, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz. I wish I could have made it to the Peninsula show and Orchids under the Oaks in Livermore.

Coming up...

More Great Speakers. For June Gwen Watson will take us on a photo tour of White Oak Orchids, for July Larry Moskovitz will discuss "Bizarre species".

Greenhouse Visits. The bus trip is back! More details at the June meeting.

Orchid Fairs. The San Jose fair on the June 4-5 and Santa Barbara July 8-10 are a great opportunity to buy plants in the "off" season. Santa Barbara is especially nice to visit in July when it's all foggy here.

Potting Demo. By popular demand there will be a potting demo before the June meeting. Come at 6:30 to see how it's done. The two Phals I will repot will be given away afterward.

Continuing...

Orchids, growing and blooming. Most of my orchids are either in bloom or are growing, there are of course the problem children, but I still find it amazing that I always have something in bloom. This started around the time that the collection passed the 200 mark and hasn't stopped.

John



John's Pleione x confusa, a natural hybrid. "I still have not quite figured this one out. It is growing well, but the blooms were not as good as they should be."



About as different as two orchids can be. On the left is *Holcoglossum flavescens* the whole plant is only a couple of inches across. On the right a hybrid *Cymbidium* from the CVGS. The *Cymbidium*'s flower is larger than the *Holcoglossum* plant.

Orchid Talk

As I enter my greenhouse, I am greeted with the sweet smell of coconut. My *maxillaria tenuifolia* is in bloom. I also have a cross of *max tenuifolia* and *sanguinea* blooming. It looks just like *tenuifolia*, but I can detect a hint of chocolate in with the coconut fragrance! I caught *diplocaulobium aratriferum* in bloom. These white, star shaped flowers last one day and as they wilt, they change to bright pink. *Aerangis citrata* is in full bloom with it's pale yellow flowers, and as I approach the rear of my greenhouse, I am overwhelmed by the scent of *Gongora rufescens* in full bloom. It's brown and white flowers remind me a little of flying cranes. I round the corner to see that my

Pleurothallis cyanea is in full bloom as well. This rare plant has tan and maroon flowers that hang like grapes from the apex of it's large leaves. I haven't even mentioned all the *masdevallias* in bloom. The *coccineas* are in full color ranging from white, yellow, pinks to red on tall spikes. The bright oranges like *wellishii* and *veitchiana* and *Heathii* are blooming along with *Ruby Slippers* with it's deep scarlet color. I know many members are enjoying the rewards of our year round labors. Show 'N Tell should be stunning at our June meeting.

There are still a few unwanted guests in my greenhouse as well. I have had more aphids than usual this year. They seem to go after the new growths and buds. I keep a spray bottle of rubbing

continued next page...

alcohol handy to squirt on them. It never seems to hurt the buds, but kills the aphids instantly. There are a few well fed mealy bugs hiding in the deep crevices of new growths or buds. You can pick them off or the alcohol works on them too. I will find that nasty, white boisoval scale on the underside of my cattleya leaves, usually in the remotest parts of my greenhouse. I will see a leaf with yellowing spots and I know to look underneath for the culprits. I remove what I see by hand using the alcohol again, but I do get out the Bayer 3 in 1 systemic to spray the plant thoroughly. If you have a plant with a large infestation, toss it out unless it is something very special. You don't want that scale to gain a real foothold in your collection. It is the time to be weeding you potting mix.



Ceratostylis philippinensis

Last month I told you it was time to repot your cymbidiums. Well, I haven't repotted mine yet either. But it is time now for sure so make that chore as priority.

I have spent time mounting many of my orchids. Beverly's Craft Store out on Fremont carries bags of the Green Moss that our speaker, Bruce Davidson recommended. I also found large spools of fishing line at the Big 5 store for \$3.00. It works great and is nearly

invisible. The orchids are easy to water and keep evenly moist. What I like best is I don't have to worry about repotting them in a year. I am seeing new growths on my unhappy draculas, so I am hopeful. I mounted some bulbophyllums and laelia anceps this past month hoping I can get them to bloom. I look for natural mounts like tree branches or old tree roots that can be found along the Carmel River. I have also used the usual cork, but sometimes I turn it around and use the backside that is smoother and curves to hug the orchid. I make my own hooks after I drill holes near the top. I found very bendable bailing wire in a large spool at Home Depot for \$3.73.

I am always looking for the perfect fertilizer. My goal is to eventually go completely organic and achieve great

results at the same time. I often add seaweed extract to whatever I am using. I remember Bruce Davidson recommended it as it adds a lot of those

micronutrients that orchids depend upon. I bought a fertilizer called Bio Live at Monterey Horticultural Supply in Marina. It is an all organic powder that I am going to make into a tea for use on my masdevallias to begin with. Orchard Supply Hardware now carries pelletized chicken manure that I plan to use on my cymbidiums along with worm castings. I will let you know if the results are worthwhile.

Carolyn

2011 CVGS Orchid Ribbon Winners

Cattleyas

1. C. guatemalensis - Carol Easton
2. LC Love Knot - Carol Easton
2. BC Bill Worsley X L. cinnabarina - Joanie Linares
3. LC Sassy Sis 'Wati' - Joanie Linares
3. L Icarus - Joanie Linares

Epidendrums

1. Epi. ellipticum - John OConnell
2. Psh Radiata-Cochlea - John OConnell
2. Enc. vitellina X B. nodosa - Joanie Linares
3. Epi. sancti-ramoni - John OConnell
3. Epi. paniflorum - Joanie Linares

Brassavola

1. B. Little Star - Carol Easton

Cymbidium Minis

1. Cym. Dancing Mother 'Kotone' - Jackie Kinney

Cymbidium Standards

1. Cym. unknown (brought in on a handcart) - Maryln Uribe
2. Cym lowianum - Carol Easton
3. Cym. unknown (the one with a zillion spikes, but only one flower open) - Maryln Uribe

Dendrobiums

1. Dend. bracteatum - Unknown grower

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. 'Ever Green' - John OConnell

Vandas

1. Sarc. ceciliae - John OConnell
2. Sarc. Fitzhart - Carol Easton

Oncidiums

1. Odm. Golden Halls - Carol Easton
1. Mexicoa ghiesbreghtiana - John OConnell
2. Onc. unknown - Carol Easton
2. Colmanara Masai Red - Leslie Olsen

Masdevallias Big

1. Masd. Tiger Kiss 'Zaia' - Jackie Kinney
1. Masd. cocliana alba 'Lemforders' - Jackie Kinney

Masdevallias Small

1. Masd. exquisita - Jackie Kinney

Other

1. Nageliellia angustifolia - John OConnell
2. Drydella ednallii - Carolyn Salmon

Best Of Show: C. guatemalensis - Carol Easton

Excellence of Culture: Mexicoa ghiesbreghtiana - John OConnell

There was a total of 90 plants in the exhibit. I did not count how many people contributed, but a couple of our better growers were absent this year, I hope they will be back exhibiting next year.



Andy's Orchids exhibit at POE draws a crowd.

Show Off Your Green Thumb & Beautiful Blooms this year at the Monterey County Fair!

Show off at the 75th Annual Monterey County Fair this year which will be held August 31-September 5, 2011! We are very interested in displaying a wide array of entries in our Flower and Garden Display area which will be revamped by Fair-time! The garden area will be receiving a much needed upgrade with the garden plots being redone with stone surrounds, filled with new soil and additional lighting! This area is going to be a lovely retreat for fair patrons to sit back and admire the wonderful gardens while enjoying a corndog.

Here's the perfect opportunity for professional and non-professional gardeners to showcase their floral talents and there are many opportunities for competitors to enter. Additionally, there will be many knowledgeable garden related exhibitors in the Fair's Garden Area. Fair attendees can also see exhibits of new and unusual gardening techniques. The Water Awareness Committee of Monterey County, Inc. will host its 7th annual Water Wise Landscape Design Awards at the 2011 Fair, sponsoring additional awards. We have something for everyone with some of our garden divisions including Club Gardens, Commercial Gardens, and Wheelbarrow Gardens now with larger garden plots.

The Monterey County Fair's Floriculture and Garden Departments welcome your entries between May 1 and August 8, 2011. Detailed simple entry instructions will be available on the website, www.montereycountyfair.com or exhibit entry guides will be available at the Fair office at 2004 Fairgrounds Road, between 9 AM – 5 PM (closed Noon to 1 PM) during the week.

Call (831) 372-5863 if you have any questions! We very much appreciate your support of the Monterey County Fair!



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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.

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