

# The BackBulb

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

June 2017



## June Speaker: Bruce Rogers

### About Sobralias

According to Bruce, he will give a rare public talk on the genus Sobralia, although those of us who have ever talked to Bruce know well that he will talk at length to anyone about Sobralias, one of his favorite orchid genera!

Bruce has always had a passion for the plant kingdom, growing plants as a hobbyist from an early age. He began working professionally with orchids in the late seventies when he was hired by the City of Atlanta, GA Parks Department working in Piedmont Park's orchid greenhouses. Returning to San Francisco after this very successful endeavor, he was promptly hired by the Rod McLellan Company with two functions: head grower for their boarding department, and to work on Vanda hybridization. At that time, Rod McLellan was major force in the orchid world and the association with this company led to many great opportunities. In the early eighties Bruce left to start Bruce Rogers Orchids, a orchid consulting and



management company, and a few years later, Rogers-Fishman Boarding, A orchid boarding company in San Francisco. In the commercial world, he has consulted and worked with major companies, department stores, and civic groups both nationally and internationally. In the private sector he has had the opportunity to work with many interesting and influential people. He has designed and created Orchid Gardens in private homes from Marin to Santa Barbara.

Bruce has been growing and

1  
June Speaker

2  
Upcoming Events

3  
Everybody Needs  
Somebody

In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **S thru Z** to **bring refreshments** to the next meeting.

## COS Officers

### President

Carol Easton

### VP Program

Jerry Loomis

### Recording

### Secretary

Janette Ford

### Treasurer

Daniel Bellem

### Directors

Jeanette Brown

Lesley Olsen

Susan Holm

Lory Schluenz

Frances Richardson

John OConnell

Carolyn Salmon

P.O. Box 223462

Carmel, CA

93922-3462

## BackBulb Editor & Webmaster

John OConnell

### This is John's 100th

### BackBulb for the

Society. He started producing the BB in December of 2008 and except for a few summer months

has put one out every month since.

NOTE that July will be one of those skipped months.

hybridizing Sobralias for many years. In 2002 Bruce, got together with Terry Root (well known as owner of the Orchid Zone) to form Oz Gardens, a wholesale nursery specializing in Sobralias. Their work has led to a wider selection of Sobralia for different climate zones, and an expanded blooming season.

Sobralias are giants of the Orchid World in both size of plant and flower. Sobralias can be a fantastic plant suitable outside culture



in the Bay area. Growing superbly in both pots and beds in the garden, they bloom easily in the late spring to early fall. Few orchids approach the beauty and allure of Sobralias.

An orchid exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show, which Carol attended.

## Upcoming Events

### June

6/5 Monday June COS Meeting

6/10 Orchid Digest Speakers' Day "Orchids from Around the World", 12am-8pm, Huntington Gardens, San Marino

### July

There will be no regular COS meeting in July

7/22-23 SFOS "Orchids in the Park" Summer Show & Sale Sat. & Sun 10-5, SF County Fair Building 9th Ave & Lincoln Way Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

7/29 California Sierra Nevada Speaker's Day 9-5 Odd Fellows Building, 1831 Howe Avenue at Alta Arden, Sacramento, CA

### August

8/7 Monday, August COS meeting

8/18-20 San Jose Orchid Exposition, Wesley United Methodist Church 566 N. 5th St. San Jose CA.



Above:  
Tillandsias  
hanging  
out.

Right:  
Sundews  
and  
Butterwort.

Below:  
Pitcher  
plants  
and  
succulents



## Everybody Needs Somebody

Even the most zealous orchid addict sometimes needs a bit of a break, or a slight change of pace, all orchids all the time gets a little bit old. So here are some terrific companion plants for your orchid growing spaces, something to diversify your collection a bit.

Tillandsias are my number one choice for keeping your orchids company. Weird shapes, easy orchid friendly culture, fairly inexpensive, and easy growers. Tillandsias are sometimes called air plants, and they seem to do fine just hanging up in the air above your orchids without any mount, just a wire to suspend them, some develop some roots, but they are only used for support so mounts are completely optional. I give mine the same light as my high light plants (Cattleyas and Laelias) and water them when I water the rest of my mounted plants (around 5 times a week, less in the winter).

*Drosera capensis*, the cape sundew. This is a plant for the over-waterer in all of us. Keep it wet and bright and it will devour tons of those little fungus gnats that are always flying around. They easily reseed so you may find yourself pulling volunteers out of other wet growing plants in the vicinity.

Butterworts, *Pinguicula* sp., are another great wet growing carnivore with nice flowers.



Right:  
Epiphitic  
cacti

Bellow:  
Epiphyllum  
oxypetalum  
blooms



Sarracenia (American pitcher plants) is another group of bog plants that can eat it's weight in insects. These are best outside all year round. They do best in full sun sitting in a pan of water. For most species, cut the pitchers off at the end of the winter as new pitchers will grow in the spring. Unlike orchids these plants do not like to be crowded in their pot which leads to a lot of dividing, repotting and sharing of divisions.

Less violent, but with much showier blooms than the carnivorous plants, the various epiphytic cacti of Epiphyllum, Disocactus, and several other geneses do very well in most orchid conditions. Some of these plants get quite large so pick wisely. Unlike the Tillandsias, where the plant is the main attraction, with the epiphytic cacti it is the blooms that are incredible. The blooms of Epiphyllum oxypetalum are 6 inches across and incredibly fragrant, unfortunately they open in late evening and done by early morning so set an alarm to see and smell these beauties.

If you are wondering what can go in that wasted space under the bench, try some ferns. They come big and small, most like the water and humidity that orchids like but most take lower light levels so the under bench area is perfect for them. Just watch out for volunteers, if a fern takes root in a pot with an orchid it can crowd the orchid



right out, so you need to be ruthless with removing any lovely fronds that emerge from your orchids pots.

And of course, what plant collection would be complete without some cacti and succulents. There are dozens to hundreds of weird plant forms many with cool flowers. Most will do alright with orchids but you need to watch the water as most are quite sensitive to over watering.

So where can you find these companions? Tinder? Ashly Madison? Just kidding! We are looking for long term commitment not a one night stand (I have had enough of one month wonder plants. Beautiful and fascinating when you bring them home, compost a month later). Most of mine came from vendors at larger orchid shows, other orchid growers, and specialty plant shows like the Monterey Bay Cacti and Succulent Society show in San Juan Batista. Like your orchid, you will need to look further than the nearest big box store or local nursery for these babies, but they are worth the search.

## John

Left: Succulents  
along the  
greenhouse wall

Two of Peninsula Orchid Societies best growers: Anna Chai and Asuka, will hold open houses on the weekend of June 10-11.

Anna Chai, 9-4

2508 Sherborne Drive, Belmont, CA 94002  
650-592-7263 - email [acleeac@hotmail.com](mailto:acleeac@hotmail.com)

Asuka, 9-3

1951 Evergreen Dr. (cross street Valleywood) San Bruno, CA 94066  
650-588-6753 - [AsukaOrchids@Yahoo.com](mailto:AsukaOrchids@Yahoo.com)  
[AsukaOrchids.com](http://AsukaOrchids.com)



## Fifteenth Orchid Digest Speakers Day

Saturday, June 10, 2017  
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Ahmanson Classroom, Botanical Building  
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens  
San Marino, CA

## ORCHIDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Featuring

Cindy Hill "My Top Ten Favorite Species Orchids and How I Grow Them"

Alan Koch "Sarcophilus: Past, Present and a New Direction"

Harold Koopowitz "Orchids in Northern Thailand"

Dennis Wigham "Native Orchids: Ecology and Conservation"

Ernest Hetherington Distinguished Lecture:

Ken Cameron: "Vanilla, Orchid Evolution, & the Genomic Revolution"

Scheduled Vendors include: Andy's Orchids, Cal Orchid, Gold Country Orchids, and Sunset Valley Orchids

Tickets: \$65 (\$80 at the door) for afternoon seminars, live auction,  
wine and cheese happy hour, dinner and evening entertainment.

Reservations online at [www.orchiddigest.org](http://www.orchiddigest.org)

or contact Simone Friend at [simonef@orchiddigest.org](mailto:simonef@orchiddigest.org) or call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by email, please include phone number, email address and mailing address. Space is limited so don't wait to buy your ticket!

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

### 2017 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Carol Easton, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

Please print

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

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	
	Via E-Mail	Via US Mail
Single	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>

# Orchids in the Park

San Francisco Orchid Society's  
Summer Show & Sale

July 22 & 23, 2017

10 am - 5 pm

San Francisco County Fair Building  
(Hall of Flowers)

9th Ave. & Lincoln Way

Golden Gate Park - San Francisco

Demonstrations/Raffle

Admission:

\$5, Seniors \$4, under 16 free

[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)



## California Sierra Nevada Speaker's Day

Saturday, July 29, 2017  
9am to 5pm  
Odd Fellows Building  
1831 Howe Avenue at Alta Arden  
Sacramento, CA

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - Saturday, July 29, 2017

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:00  | <b>AOS Judging, see how we judge</b>  |
| 10:30 | <b>Modern Cymbidiums</b><br>George Hatfield, Hatfield Orchids and American Orchid Society President |
| 11:45 | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |
| 12:30 | <b>Auction</b>  |
| 1:45  | <b>Orchids of Madagascar</b><br>James Rose, Cal Orchids   |
| 2:45  | <b>Latouria Dendrobiums, Lessons from Phil Spence: the Master</b><br>Roy Tokunaga, H & R Nurseries  |
| 3:45  | <b>Questions and Answers with the AOS President</b><br>George Hatfield<br>Alan Koch, moderator      |

---

**\$10 advance for Sponsoring Societies or AOS members**  
**\$30 at the door for Sponsoring Societies or AOS members**  
**\$30 general admission**

Advance Tickets from Susan Wedegaertner: [sgwede@gmail.com](mailto:sgwede@gmail.com)

CSNJC is a 501 c 3 organization. Visit our website at [csnjc.org](http://csnjc.org)  
All talks subject to change

Real Orchid Growers • Unusual Species • Original Hybrids



**SAN JOSE**  
**ORCHID EXPOSITION**  
**2017**

©Eric Hunt [www.orchidphotos.org](http://www.orchidphotos.org)  
**San Jose Japantown**

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
566 N. 5th St., San Jose, CA 95112

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b>August 20</b>
<b>5:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>10:00am-7:00pm</b>	<b>12:00pm-7:00pm</b>

**Rare & Exotic Orchids at Unbelievable Prices**  
**Book Signing by Bruce Rogers,**  
**Best Selling Author of "The Orchid Whisperer"**  
**Admission \$7.00 Friday • \$5.00 Saturday & Sunday**

2 - Church 6<sup>th</sup> St. Parking Lots between East Jackson and Empire St.  
1 - Public Parking Lot on the Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> St. and East Jackson St.

find **REAL ORCHID GROWERS** on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/brucedavidson)  
[www.bruce davidson.solutions/events](http://www.bruce davidson.solutions/events)