

The BackBulb

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

October 2011



October BBQ and Silent Auction

October is a great month to get outside, fire up the barbie, enjoy some great food and company and of course indulge in some orchids. Carol has volunteered to host the event and even though she is from way, way north of the Mason-Dixon line, she will be preparing smoked, pulled pork BBQ complete with coleslaw and as an alternative there will be grilled chicken. The rest of the menu is up to you. Bring the dish of your choice: appetizer, salad, desert, or drinks (a few bottles of vino and soft drinks would be welcome) plates and utensils will be provided.

And what would a COS BBQ be without orchids? This year will feature a silent auction featuring some very nice plants. The Society has obtained a few (I picked out some species from Andy's and Dan Newman myself), and you need to provide the rest. This is your chance to reduce your collection and make a little money while doing it.

Details:

✿ **RSVP John at 831-394-8419**, if you haven't replied to one of the emails.

✿ **Saturday October 8th 2 to 5PM.**



Prosthechea garciana, to be auctioned off.

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

- 1 October BBQ
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 Art and Orchids
- 4 Orchid Talk
- 6 Sponsors

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- ✿ Directions: Traveling out Carmel Valley Road, turn Left on Loma Del Rey (Note the 3 House for sale signs), just past the Chateau Julien Winery, just after the turn make the first right up a steep hill, Carols house is the first one on the right, 27525 Loma Del Rey.
- ✿ Bring some food to share: appetizers, salad, dessert, drinks or whatever Bring any utensil need to serve your dish.
- ✿ Bring plants for the silent auction. Each plant requires a \$2 donation. The society will provide bid sheets, you may want to bring photos, cultural details, stories etc. about your plants.
- ✿ Members are free, nonmembers are \$10.



Joanie's Cattleya
maxima, 6 spikes!

Upcoming Events

September

9/30 6:30-8:30PM Art and Orchids, Studio openhouse, more below.

October

10/8 Saturday COS BBQ, Carols house.

10/15-16 11AM-5PM Hanging Gardens Open Greenhouse Sale.

10/15-16 Diablo View Orchid Society Orchid Fair, Concord
Hilton 1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord, CA.

November

11/5-6 Orchid Society of California November Show & Sale.
Lakeside Garden Center, Oakland CA.

Art and Orchids

A Studio Open House with TCK Studio and Sylvan Design

Have some wine, and talk to artist Todd Kruper about his art, his orchids and how he mixes the two. **6:30 to 8:30PM at TCK studio, 637**

Ortiz Ave. Sand City

<http://tckstudioart.posterous.com/> As an added bonus Sylvan Design (another studio a couple of doors down) will be open too.

<http://www.sylvandesignstudio.com>

Todd on Art and Orchids

From an early age I have been encouraged to create . Both parents were bankers, my Father had an interest in music, my Mother was into crafts. So being involved in artistic actives ran the household. Being visual, the orchids always were at the top of the list. But the cost was the problem, so as the years went by I found that I did pretty well with them. Working at the university I saw many orchids go by the way side for lack of understanding of how to care for them. That's when the "Orchid Recovery Program " came into mind. You know, 'If your going to throw that out, can I have it?' Well, now it has found it's way into my artwork and I am embarking on two things in life Art and Orchids. We will see how long I can afford it, but it's fun for now.

Todd and Slip Knot



Orchid Talk

We can feel fall in the air with more sunny days and cooler nights. The sun's angle has changed greatly and we have lost more than 2.5 hours of daylight. We could be in for one last heat wave or the rains may come early. So, my general advice is to water and fertilize according to the weather. Here is what I have been doing. Usually twice a year I go through my cymbidiums, once as the rains end and before the next rainy season begins. I like to get all the leaf debris out of the mix and in between the bulbs and leaves. Those pesky pine needles and oak leaves make a mess and hold too much water where you don't want the plant to rot. I clean up the bulbs by removing the dry old sheaths for the same reason. I trim off any yellow leaves and trim leaf ends that may be brown. I check for early flower spikes. If they are growing too horizontally, I take steps to train them more upright. I may stick a piece of wine cork underneath them or begin to stake them from the bottom if they are long enough. Time to bait for the slugs and snails, as they are watching for those spikes too. Your spikes will be much prettier if you can protect them from rainfalls under an eave or balcony. This becomes even more important when the buds emerge from the sheaths.



For me, repotting orchids never seems to end, but fall is prime time for some. The pansy orchid or miltoniopsis should only be repotted in the fall unless it is on death's door. Mine look much better these days since I leave them outside for the warmer months, but take them in during winter. They will survive outside all year, but they aren't happy. Many cattleyas are showing their new roots in the fall. In their natural habitat,

they are timing root growth to the upcoming rainy season. It is the optimal time for repotting them. I will do it carefully, even if they have buds in the sheath.

Ahhh....then there is pest control. They are so sneaky. Scale usually hides on the underside of the leaves or at the base. I now keep a sharp eye out for leaves that seem to be getting a pale green or yellow spot. Look underneath for that white fuzzy colony of scale. I spray them immediately with rubbing alcohol and then I spray with a systemic. I usually work with my collection in sections to observe each plant and clean, spray and fertilize it. Mealy bugs reproduce very quickly this time of year, especially when the days are still warm. They like to hide out of eyesight as well, like down inside you new growths or in

the crooks of your flower bud stems, or the backside of the flower petals or sepals. They get sprayed the same way. I don't know if they are dead until

they turn from white to red. You can add a hormone product to your pesticide called Enstar II. It will interrupt the reproductive cycle of the mealy bug. You won't find it in your local hardware store, but on-line, it is available. I have had a lot of trouble with black aphids this year. They attack buds and new growths which deforms the leaves, so annoying!! When I spot new growths now, I check for aphids right away. I spray in the same way. Fortunately, they are easy to kill, but if you don't use a systemic, they are back in a few days.

Well, enough about all the work that goes into orchids. What about the rewards.....Fall is a great time for blooms of all kinds. Many orchids in the oncidium alliance are spiking now along with the cattleya alliance. I have discovered four or five cymbidiums with spikes coming already. I have a pleuro amparoana in bloom, the little white, furry flowers look like toilets with the seat up, they are hilarious! Lots of madevallias are spiking with some blooms. As the weather cools, they will start



growing again, so I use very dilute fertilizer all year long. Let's see, dendrobium lawsii has bright pink flowers. I have a maxillaria with small BLACK flowers. Each time I cruise through the greenhouse, I spot something coming into spike. This makes all the orchid care worthwhile for me. That is why there is always room for just one or two more!!!!

Carolyn Salmon

Top. Richard and his specimen Encyclia.

Middle. Janette, "Then it just took off"

Bottom. John, "The flowers are really small!!"

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John: "I acquired this plant as an unknown Pleurothallis from the Hoosier Orchids going out of business sale a few years ago. While skimming through the September **Orchids** magazine the "Dracontia" article caught my eye, 'I have that plant!'. Sure enough a comparison of the picture of Dracontia tuerckheimii matches my plant" No wonder it was unknown, the article calls it Dracontia tuerckheimii, the Kew monocol list call it Stelis megachlamys but everyone else calls it Pleurothallis tuerckheimii.

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

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If you were referred by a current member, please provide his/her name _____

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Vendor	\$30	\$35



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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 johnoconnell19@att.net.

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