

The BackBulb

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

June 2014



June Meeting: Tanya Lam

Orchids in Sukhothai (Thailand)

Sukhothai was the first kingdom of Thailand

established over 700 years ago. The province is located on the lower edge of Northern Thailand, 427 km north of Bangkok and has been the capital of Thailand for 120 years. Sukhothai literally means “Dawn of Happiness”, and is named so because of the good life that the people had during this golden era.

Most tourists do not come to this region to see orchids, but rather visit the ruins of the ancient city of Sukhothai, which was the Thai capital during the 13th Century C.E. Sukhothai is the second orchid-rich region after Chiang Mai in Thailand. With many national historic parks and higher elevation, the humid environment is a wonderful home of over 2,000 orchid species, ranging from many orchid species of aerides, bulbophyllum, coelegyne, cymbidium, dendrobium, paphiopedilum, phalaneopsis, and more.

Tanya will share her experience on the 4-day post-WOC orchid tour to visit this remote region, where she explored the jungle climbing to 1,500 meters of steep hills to see orchids.

Tanya works full time at Kaiser Permanente, in Human Resources management. Tanya has been growing orchids for 15 years, during which time she listened, experimented, and was creative in adjusting her growing methods to provide her orchids with their healthiest rooting systems, and in turn enjoy their best performances in flowering. During the first few years of growing orchids, her job required extensive travel, which required her to have good planning and orchid mixes that stay moist exactly 7 days. Tanya created her own mixes to fit her weekly watering schedule and condition. Orchid has become Tanya’s obsession and second profession.

Tanya grows many species and hybrids in San Jose, California.

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.

This month's meeting is on **Monday June 2nd, 7PM** at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula. 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

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COS Officers

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Her special interests are both species and hybrids mostly of dendrobium, epidendrum, paphiopedilum, encyclia, cattleya, vandaceous, angraecoids. She has recently explored many other orchid genera as well. Tanya likes "showy" orchids and long or frequent blooming orchids.

Tanya also likes to rescue unhealthy orchids to revive them from coworkers or society members. She belongs to many orchid societies in northern California where she lives with her husband and three children.



And it's for sale!

Upcoming Events

June

5/30-31, 6/1 San Jose Orchid Exposition, Winchester Mystery House \$5

5/2 Monday COS June meeting, Tanya Lam will speak about orchid hunting in Sukhothai (Thailand).

July

No Regular meeting in July

7/19 Tenative, Local greenhouse visit, stay tuned for more details.

President's Corner

Our booth at the Carmel Valley Garden Show went off without a hitch thanks to everyone who worked on it. We met a lot of new people, talked orchid culture (gave answers to how do I get a Phal to re-bloom), and sold quite a few orchids. If you were at the May meeting you know that we substituted an auction for the plant table. There were some great orchids left over from the show to bid on. The bidding got pretty competitive at times. I think almost everyone went home with a great new orchid for their collection.

Speaking of collections, summer is upon us which probably means the warm to hot days we have been experiencing will turn to foggy days. Ah yes, one of the wonderful things about living on the Monterey Peninsula is we can grow a whole lot of orchids outside year round sans greenhouse. I have to admit it took me a long time to really understand I could grow more than cymbidiums outside. Many of our members take great advantage of the opportunity but I notice that most who do are those who also have a cool growing or intermediate to cool growing greenhouse. Those of us who are less experienced tend to be cautious about taking

those precious gems outside.

To that I say, get up your nerve. Find a sheltered eve and start to bring some of those housebound darlings outside. A great place to start is with you Masdevallias. There are over 500 species of Masdevallias - so lots to choose from. Masdevallias are members of the Pleurothallidinae alliance which makes them sound quite exotic -- personally, I think they are whimsical and graceful at the same time. They are at home (found that is) from Mexico to the tip of South America - mostly at relatively high altitudes. That means they generally live in conditions with a lot of fog and mist combined with cool temperatures. To some degree that describes the



Peninsula if you ignore the hot days and the cold nights. Most of our members who grow a lot of Masdevallias have them in a protected area next to their house which rarely gets heavy sun, rain or wind -- or in a lathe house. They really do like to be outside and as long as you can keep them protected and moist they will thrive. On those hot days a good misting will keep them happy. If it goes below 32 degrees for more than a couple of hours, cover them with some plastic or a sheet. They really are hardy. However, every culture sheet will stress that good water quality is

critical to growing great Masdevallias. While undoubtedly true, if you don't have a reverse osmosis system, filtered rain water or augmented distilled water, use what is available out of the tap. Probably you will get good results regardless. If you google Masdevallias you'll see there are a lot more options than we are accustomed to seeing at local shows. You will also observe that Mary Gerritson has written a definitive book on Masdevallias with photos by her husband and co-grower Ron Parsons. (Aren't we lucky to have so many great "resource" people in the area?)

This is all to say, I would love to see

COS Board of Directors Meeting May 19, 2014

Members Present: Kathie Ritter, John O'Connell, Carol Easton, Daniel Bellem, Jeanette Brown, Leslie Olsen. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. at Carol's house.

Previous Minutes: Daniel moved, Carol seconded to approve minutes from the April 2014 meeting; approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at the beginning of April 2014 was \$8,953.16; at the end of the month balance was \$9,354.22. Daniel corrected journal entries that carried back to February 2013 under Total Available Funds - Other in the amount of 960.33. The remaining balance reflected under Total Available Funds - Other is \$65.61 that represents the proceeds collected by the bank from a returned check from one of the members and posted by the previous Treasurer. Kathie

more Masdevallias on the "Show and Tell" table from a wider array of our members.

Kathie



Cute little *Tolumnia variegata*, that only took 5 years to bloom. John was surprised it lasted that long.

requested a more detailed explanation of the income/expenses from the Smart Gardner's Fair. Daniel will amend the Treasurers Report to reflect this.

VP Report: John reported that Tanya Lam will be our speaker for the JUNE meeting, she will be bringing the plant table as well as plants to sell. He will send the list of plants out prior to the meeting. After discussion it was decided that we would continue to take our speakers to RG Burgers until a suitable replacement was found. The JULY meeting will be a carpool Greenhouse Tour probably to BayBreeze & Matsui. John will have more details at the next Board meeting. AUGUST -Dean Hung, SEPTEMBER --the BBQ, OCTOBER - AOS judging, NOVEMBER - the Fall Faire, DECEMBER - the Christmas Party.

Old Business:

1. Kathie stated that we need to have a better way of tracking individual plants that we buy to sell at events like the Master Gardeners & the CVGFS. We need to know the name, the cost of individual plants and how much we sold them for and to track this on a yearly basis . This information will help us buy appropriate plants that will sell at future events. Carol has volunteered to start a spreadsheet with the information currently available and to help devise a tracking method for future shows.

New Business:

1. September BBQ - we need a site for this

event. Carol & Daniel offered their home. Date will be Saturday, September 13,2014. Details to be discussed the next meeting.

2. November Fall Faire - It was agreed that Carol & Daniel would be the co-chairs again and that Carol would send the vendor letters out within the next week or so. John will revising the artwork .

The June 2014 Board Meeting will be held at Jeanette Brown's house on June 16, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. The July meeting will beat Kathie's on July 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM - 1 week earlier than usual.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Easton

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y
2014 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

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

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Couple	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY 30	MAY 31	JUNE 1
5:30PM-9:30PM	9:00AM-6:00PM	10:00AM-5:00PM

PREVIEW NIGHT – FRIDAY
\$5.00 ADMISSION SAT & SUN
\$10.00 ADMISSION FRIDAY PREVIEW NIGHT

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