



# The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 2

February 2002

## Our February speaker: Walter Teague

Jim Nybakken has arranged an extraordinary speaker for our February meeting, Monday, February 4, at 7:30 PM. Walter Teague, an expert's expert and a fascinating speaker, will be visiting us. Jim Newman will be bringing along plants from Walter's collection, gathered over a long and distinguished career, which he now owns.

Walter Teague was born and raised in Ecuador until age 20 when he came to California. He has been growing orchids and other plants for about 30 years.

After he became interested in orchids, Walter returned to Ecuador many times, also exploring Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia, in search of orchids and other flora.

Walter writes, "During my travels I was lucky to have been in the right place at the right time, to have been able to collect many plants that turned out to be new at that time. I have been credited as

being the first to collect several species of orchids, specially in the Pleuruthallidinae group. There are orchids named after me in the following genera: Masdevallia, Dracula, Lepanthes, Restrepia, Porroglossum, Pleurothallis, Trichosalpynx, Platystele and Trichocentrum. Also a genus; Teagueia."

Walter will be speaking about Ecuador: the country, its orchids and other flora. As well as many other plants, he is an expert on, and will be talking about, species, particularly Masdevallia and Dracula, both of which grow well in the Monterey and other coastal areas due to their cool and moist native habitats (see Masdevallia and Dracula Culture on page 2 of this issue). Dan Newman, who has purchased Walter's phenomenal collection of orchids, will be bringing the plant table. There are sure to be many beautiful and exotic plants to enjoy.

Walter is always an entertaining and engaging speaker, to say nothing of his immense expertise. We are looking forward to an outstanding presentation. Let's give Walter a big welcome!



*Dracula robledorum*

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## Masdevallia & Dracula Culture

Masdevallia, a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World tropics, is known for its showy flowers with sepals striking in their size, shape, and/or color. Their need for a cool, damp environment makes them an excellent choice for cool, coastal climates.

**LIGHT** levels for this group usually are thought of as fairly low; however, some successful growers believe that the best flowerings are produced under higher light levels. Plants can be grown, but not necessarily flowered, in the same light levels as those for ferns -- 400 to 1,000 foot-candles. Most growers maintain levels adequate for Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum -- 1000 to 1,500 foot-candles. Masdevallias can be kept in light intensities up to 2,500 foot-candles if the growing area can be kept cool. Plants grow well under four-tube fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade.

**TEMPERATURES** should be cool to intermediate; plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods of time. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 50 to 55 degrees F are ideal; day temperatures should be 60 to 75 degrees F. Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions.

**WATER** is critical for these plants because they have minimal water storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become just dry before watering again if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine.

**HUMIDITY** is important for these plants. The ideal range is 60% to 80%. In the home, mist the plants (in the morning only) and set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by misting or wetting down the floors, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and

lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended.

**FERTILIZER** should be applied regularly while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10 type formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based medium. A 20-20-20 type formulation should be used for plants in other media. If weather is dull, applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high phosphorus, 10-30-20 type formulation (bloom booster) as plants approach flowering.

**POTTING** is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer and/or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, to keep the potting mix from decomposing. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or treefern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants. The bottom one quarter to one third of the pot should be filled with drainage material, either broken crock, rocks or Styrofoam "peanuts." The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest

growth is farthest from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the pot. Plants growing in many directions may be positioned in the center of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the plant. Firm the medium around the roots by applying pressure. Keep humidity high and the potting medium slightly dry until new roots form. A vitamin B1 compound may help establish newly potted plants.



*Masdevallia hirtzi 'Don'*

Courtesy of the Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.



## We are looking for a new Treasurer

Harold Ragan, our Treasurer, who has been doing a yeoman job for the past couple of years, is moving on to other things. He will be resigning his post in the near future, so the Society is looking for a new Treasurer. If you have any experience in handling money, accounting or keeping records and want to fill a much-needed post, or even if you just have the desire and drive to return something to the Society that has brought you so much pleasure, please contact any of the members of the Board (listed on the back of the Backbulb). Thanks!

## Treasurer's Report



Checkbook balance on December 1	\$2,390.25
December income	768.00
December expense	(1,600.00)
Checkbook balance on December 31	\$1,558.25
Value of CD on December 15	\$7,232.00

### Vicki Rapulas

The membership of the Carmel Orchid Society expresses their deepest condolences to COS member and former Director Ted Rapulas, whose wife and fellow COS member Vicki passed away in early January. Vicki will be missed.



## *Carmel Orchid Society, Inc.*

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

Monthly meetings at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of each month (Except September and December) at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, 501 EI Dorado, Monterey. Membership \$ 10.00 for a single or \$ 15.00 for two at the same address. Make check payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to:

Carmel Orchid Society-Membership  
 P.O.Box 2454  
 Monterey, CA 93942

Application for Membership — Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the American Orchid Society?  
 Yes  No



## Upcoming Events

### **Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show**

February 2-3, 2002  
Soquel High School  
401 Old San Jose Road  
Soquel

### **February monthly meeting**

February 4, 2002 at 7:30 PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
501 El Dorado  
Monterey  
February speaker: Walter Teague (see Walter's impressive curriculum vitae on cover)  
Before the meeting, at 6:45 PM, COS President Bill Hale will give a Cymbidium and Dracula potting demonstration.

### **February Board of Directors' Meeting**

February 18, 2002 at 7:30 PM  
Harold Ragan's house  
2161 Trapani Circle  
Monterey

### **San Francisco Orchid Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Orchid Exposition**

February 22-24, 2002  
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center  
San Francisco  
Contact: Francis Larose, (415) 546 9608 [flarose@prmagic.com](mailto:flarose@prmagic.com)

### **Bakkehelle Orchid Sale**

March 2, 2002  
At Bill and Ida Hale's Home  
241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey  
(item on p xx)

### **March monthly meeting**

March 4, 2002 at 7:30 PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
501 El Dorado  
Monterey  
March speaker: Bob Hamilton, *Odontoglossum* expert. Bob lectures all over the country on *Odontoglossum*.

### **May Faire – Carmel Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale**

May 4 and 5, 2002  
The Crossroads Shopping Center  
Carmel Rancho Boulevard  
Carmel  
This is always an exciting and interesting show (see story in this issue). Plan to attend!

## **ANNUAL MAYFAIRE 2002 ON THE HORIZON**

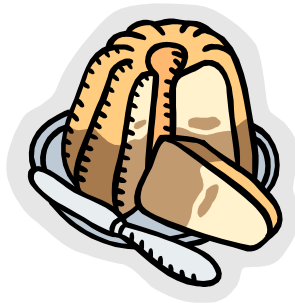
The Carmel Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show and Sale will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Crossroads Shopping Mall. Ida Hale is the Chairperson for the event and is assisted by a busy committee. Our Orchid Show has become a tradition in our community and attracts several thousand visitors. It is an important time for members to participate in a variety of ways – displaying your prize orchids, preparing food for the vendors, working the COS sales table, hosting our visitors and, of course, helping in setting up and **cleaning up!** We will be asking for volunteers from the society to staff the May Faire at our March and April meetings. If you would like to volunteer, please attend the meetings and sign up. If you cannot attend one of the meetings but would like to volunteer, please call Ida at 646-8724.

We have 23 vendors signed up to participate in the MayFaire, a record number. The vendor booths were quickly filled after sending out the announcements. Our show has become one of the most popular with the vendors. However, you, our volunteers make the entire event possible. It takes about sixty volunteers beginning with the Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> setup, to make the show a success. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up tables, drapes and displays on Friday beginning at noon. During the show, we need volunteers for four hour shifts to assist in the hospitality room and selling orchids on the COS sales table. We need lunch treats – salads, sandwiches, casseroles, desserts or your specialty will be gratefully accepted. The vendors and volunteers always appreciate the wonderful lunches that are provided during the show. Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 we **need as much help as possible**. We have to break down the tables, displays and cleanup the mall. Volunteers need to start after the vendors take their plants off and not before – so please be patient. We hope you will plan on assisting during the MayFaire. Your participation makes this event a success for the Carmel Orchid Society besides it is **FUN** and you become more acquainted with your fellow Orchid Society members.



## **Thanks to our "Goodies" Volunteers!**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our February Goodies Volunteers, who can only be thanked anonymously this month due to a new Backbulb editor who was unable to find out their names by press time. Their efforts and contributions, coordinated ably by Ellie Momon, are appreciated by all. I promise to be more "on top of it" next month and acknowledge you all.!



*Photograph courtesy of Sally Straus*



*Photograph courtesy of Sally Straus*

## **Bakkehelle Orchids Overstock Sale**

Bakkehelle Orchids is overstocked with cymbidium orchids. They are having a sale to reduce their inventory. Here is your chance to obtain some outstanding cymbidium clones at prices which are below the prices asked at Costco and Safeway. All plants are blooming size and most will be in spike or in bloom. The sale will take place on Saturday, March 2 from 9 am to 2 pm at the residence of Ida and Bill Hale at 241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey, CA. Payment for the plants purchased may be by cash or check only. The Hale residence is located two blocks east of the Monterey County Fairgrounds and 4 blocks up from Fremont Street.



P. O. Box 2454  
Monterey, CA 93942  
<http://members.aol.com/carmelorch/>

(831) 646 8724



***Reminder: 2002 Membership Fees are now Due. Please use the form on Page 3.***

## **Carmel Orchid Society**

President	William G. Hale	646-8724	
VP Program/Education	James Nybakken	659-4060	nybakken@mimi.calstate.edu
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Greenhouse Tour	William G. Hale	646-8724	
Directors	Carolyn Salmon	375-3748	
	Bud Foy	624-8872	
	Sharon Ashton	659-7389	
	Carol Easton		eastonce@aol.com
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AOS Representative	Jeffrey Schulman	622-7829	
Hospice Cymbidiums	Peggy Purchase	624-8442	
Ticket Sales	John Mockett	624-9596	