



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 3

March 2002

March Speaker: *Odontoglossum* expert Bob Hamilton

Our speaker for March will be Bob Hamilton who is a well known *Odontoglossum* grower. Bob works for the University of California at Berkeley. He is a long time grower of *Odontoglossums* and has made several trips to the *Odontoglossum* habitats in the Andes of South America. He has also presented programs to various orchid societies around the country. He will be presenting a program on *Odontoglossums* and will be presenting a plant table of *Odontoglossums*, *Masdevallias* and *Draculias*.

—Jim Nybakken



Photo courtesy Bakkehalle Orchids

Important Notice to Members

This year's May Faire will again feature our Carmel Orchid Society Plant Table. In past years our members donated 20% of their earnings to the Society from their plant sales. In addition, the Society takes 7% to pay appropriate sales taxes.

Your Board recently reviewed the plant table sales figures. We noted that for the past three years plant sales have gone down significantly each year. We are counting on you to help us reverse this trend. This year your donation has been reduced to 10% plus sales taxes. In this way, we hope you will be encouraged to bring in more saleable plants. We ask you to provide clean, healthy established plants ideally in spike or bloom. For feedback or more clarification, your Board is here to serve you.

— Carolyn Salmon, Director

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Hints from Bill Hale:

- Don't repot anything until you see new growth. Unless there are new root showing, you may be doing more harm than good by repotting.
- Turn your *cymbidiums* regularly. Most people wonder why the plants don't develop on the side facing the wall against which they sit. Turning them regularly will result in more spikes and blooms.



Odontoglossum Culture

These high-altitude orchids from the New World Tropics flourish where cool temperatures prevail year round. *Odontoglossums* are known for their striking sprays of flowers. Culture is similar for hybrids in this group, some being *Odontonia*, *Odontioda* and *Vuykstekeara*.

LIGHT should be bright. In a greenhouse, levels from 2,000 to 5,000 foot-candles are acceptable as long as heat levels can be kept down. If summer day temperatures are high, light levels can be reduced to cool the growing area. While these are not generally considered to be good houseplants, they may succeed at an east window or a shaded south window; western exposures are usually too warm in most climates.

TEMPERATURES must be exacting for these plants. Day temperatures below 75° to 80° F are almost essential year round. Night temperatures of 55 to 58 F are best. Short periods of warmer day temperatures may be tolerated, especially if humidity and air movement are at optimal levels, nights are cool and the plants have healthy root systems.

WATER should be plentiful, coupled with perfect drainage. The potting medium should just begin to dry before watering. This may mean watering every two to seven days, depending on weather, pot size and material, and type of potting medium. Accordion-pleating on leaves is a symptom - of insufficient water or humidity. As with other orchids from high-rainfall areas, *odontoglossums* are particularly sensitive to poor-quality water, which will give poor roots and leaf-tip burn.

HUMIDITY, coupled with moving air, should be ideally 40 to 80 percent. Evaporative cooling in a greenhouse increases humidity while cooling the air and is highly recommended for these orchids in most climates. Fogging the air or dampening the floor with water also helps cool and humidify. In the home, set the plants on trays above moist pebbles, with the pots resting above the water.

FERTILIZE regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10 formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based potting medium. A 20-20-20 formulation should be used on other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high-phosphorus 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation as plants approach flowering to increase flower count and substance.

POTTING should be done as new growth becomes about half mature, which is usually in the spring or autumn. These plants need to be underpotted, so when repotting leave only enough room for one to two years of new growth. Underpotting also enables the grower to provide the more frequent watering these plants need

as the smaller pots dry more quickly and evenly when filled with roots. A fine-grade potting medium with excellent drainage is required; because the medium is kept moist, annual or biannual repotting is normal. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with more medium. Firm the potting mix around the roots. Keep humidity high and the pot dry until new roots form.

Culture sheet courtesy of the American Orchid Society, website: orchidweb.org.



Odontoglossum — Courtesy Bakkehalle Orchids

A Tip from Bill Hale: Never repot an orchid until you see new roots appearing. Without new roots growing, you are as likely to kill the plant as help it.



We are still looking for a new Treasurer

Harold Ragan, our Treasurer, who has been doing a yeoman job for the past four years, is moving on to other things. He will finish his term in December this year, and will not run again, 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*). Harold would especially like any interested candidate to “shadow” him for a while to learn the ropes. Thanks for the good response so far!

Treasurer's Report - January, 2002



Checkbook balance on January 1	\$1,558.25
January income	3,204.00
January expense	(485.18)
Checkbook balance on January 31	\$4,277.07
Value of CD on January 15	\$7,262.50

A Reminder ... If you are enrolling as a new member, or are simply renewing your membership, please make sure that we have your **current** address and telephone number (and email, if you have one). We want to make sure you get your *Backbulb* regularly! Use the form below to make any changes, please.



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 _____ Member of the

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Yes No

Email address _____



Upcoming Events

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.

Before the meeting, at 6:45 PM, COS President Bill Hale will give a potting demonstration.

March Board of Directors' Meeting

March 18, 2002 at 7:30 PM

Ken and Sharon Ashton's house

26966 Laureles Grade Road (at Rinconada Road)

Carmel Valley

Bakkehelle Orchid Sale

March 2, 2002

At Bill and Ida Hale's Home

241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey

(item on p 5)

April monthly meeting

April 1, 2002 at 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

501 El Dorado

Monterey

April speaker: Tom Moore of Hawaiian Orchids Direct in Salinas.

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 at right). Plan to attend, or better yet, volunteer to help with hospitality!

June—Birthday Party

July monthly meeting

July 1, 2002 at 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

501 El Dorado

Monterey

July speaker: Rich Weymouth, commercial grower who has spoken to the COS before.

MAYFAIRE 2002: HOSPITALITY MAKES IT SPECIAL

By Carol Easton

The growers and volunteers are always delighted by the wonderful feast which our COS members provide during the MayFaire. Wonderful salads, special dishes and delicious desserts attract everyone to this special courtesy for our vendors and volunteers.

We will have food sign-ups at the April COS meetings. Bill Hale, our President and the Hospitality Chairperson will be pleased to hear from you if you have something special to contribute or unable to sign-up at the meeting. This is the time for all of you wonderful cooks to make your special dish.

Food should be delivered to the Hospitality room, next to the shoe repair store in the mall, by 10:00 AM each day. This will provide time for Bill and his committee to set up the luncheon. If you would like to bring some treats for break time during the morning or afternoon, you may leave it in the Hospitality room for the committee to arrange.

The vendors are constantly telling us that this is one of their favorite shows because they are treated so kindly and the **food is great!** Compliments to all our talented members and thanks for keeping up the tradition!



Brassia "Goldilocks" — courtesy Bakkehelle Orchids

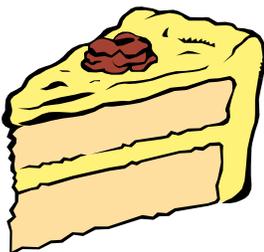
March Potting Demonstration

Bill Hale will be doing a potting demonstration before the March monthly meeting, at 6:45pm. This time, he will be potting (what else?) cymbidiums. Bill's potting demonstrations are highly informative and entertaining, and you are all urged to attend.



Thanks to our February "Goodies" Volunteers!

Finally, we can thank our February Goodies Volunteers, since your editor has finally gotten it together to ask their names. Thanks to **Kathy Apodaca, Shirley West, MaryLou Schaeffer, Lori Siegmund and Susan Phillips** for their delicious treats, and to Ellie Mamon for organizing everyone's efforts.



March goodies:

Cely Cruz
The Jongens
Ellie Mamon

Walter Teague's February Chat ...

Those of you who missed February's monthly meeting missed a delightful and lively presentation by Walter Teague, a consummate expert on orchids and many other plants, specializing in his native Ecuador and South America. He spoke on orchids, travel and friends in an engaging narrative of his beautiful slide show. Walter brought images of rare and beautiful plants in their native habitat, the high rain forests of the Ecuadorian Andes. If you ever get a chance to hear Walter speak again, grab it.

Bakkehelle Orchids Overstock Sale Approaching Fast!

By Jim Nybakken

Bakkehelle Orchids is overstocked with cymbidium orchids and must sell some to have sufficient room for the rest of the stock. These plants are mostly meristem awarded or named clones and are not the typical cymbidium that you find

these days at other large volume stores. Many of these plants will be in spike or flower while others will be of flowering size. Some select meristem plants from one of the best white cymbidium clones will also be for sale. Here is your chance to obtain some excellent outdoor growing orchids at bargain prices. Cash and checks only. The sale location is **241 Lerwick**

Drive, Monterey. The time is **Saturday, March 2 from 9 am to 2 pm.** Storm conditions will cancel the sale since it is outside. For more information call 831-646- 8724.

As of February 15, 2002:

Memberships renewed — Thanks!

Bremser, Tom
Cruz, Cely
Harvey, Emilita
Mockett, John & Kazuko
Nybakken, James
Rapalus, Ted
Richardson, Frances
Salmon, Carolyn & Jeff
Torkelson, Tony
Wenzler, Deric
Duffield, Joanne
Greenebaum, Nancy
Joe, Donna
Mulford, Marti
Rossing, Alan & Cathy
Russo, Evelyn & Neno



Photo courtesy Bakkehelle Orchids

New Members — Welcome!

Uribe, Marilyn
Walzer, Stuart
Martin, Marin



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

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	Carol Easton	625-1565	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	