



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 4

April 2002

Our April Speaker —

Tom Moore of Hawaiian Orchids Direct, Salinas

Our speaker for April is Tom Moore who is the head grower for Hawaiian Orchids Direct in Salinas. He will be speaking to us on:

“Temperature Tolerance and Breeding in the Cattleya Alliance”. This topic should be of considerable interest to our members since the talk

will center on cattleya alliance

plants that can be grown outside in our area or in the house, no greenhouse necessary!

Tom Moore started his career in orchids as an apprentice with

Armacost and Royston and completed his apprentice with the B. O. Bracy Company. In both firms he worked under William Bolanger. He has also worked in Cattleya intergeneric research with the famous W. Goodale Moirl of Hawaii. Tom has

been a hybridizer and grower for more than 28 years and has grown plants in Hawaii, the West Coast and Caribbean. He has also promised to bring a plant table of temperature-tolerant plants that can be grown outside or in the house.

We urge you to attend this

meeting, as it addresses one of the biggest hurdles that confront the would-be orchid grower in this area: the fear that attempting to grow as beautiful and exotic-appearing species

as the cattleya and its relatives would be a daunting task, requiring expensive equipment, large amounts of space, water, heat and so forth. Tom’s plant table will be oriented to debunking that myth.



Photograph courtesy of Sally Straus

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Hints from Bill Hale:

Pay attention to the origins of the orchid you are growing. If it comes from a region that experiences rain only six months of the year, watering it during its “dormant” period will not help it, and may actually rot the roots.



Cattleya Culture

Cattleyas are among the most popular orchids. Their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids. Cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors, shapes, forms and sizes. Culture varies only slightly among most of these. This sheet is a general guide to basic cattleya culture. Like many other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air plants. They have developed water-storage organs, called pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in free-draining media.

WATER should be provided in two ways - in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the container is dictated by many criteria: size and type of the vessel, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of mix; it can indicate if a plant needs water by the relative weight - light means dry, heavy means wet. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50° F may injure plants, as will water softened by

the addition of salts.

HUMIDITY should be 50 to 80 percent for cattleyas. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse, the humidity is best increased by use of a humidifier. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZE on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high-nitrogen (such as 30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer at least every two weeks, and when not actively growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at one-quarter the recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent the buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot or the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after two to three years). It is best to repot just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering or in the spring.

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

Miscellaneous Blurbs ...

Just some random ramblings from your editor ...

I have not been a member of the Society for long enough to have attended a June Carmel Orchid Society Birthday Party potluck, but whenever I overhear a conversation or ask about one, eyes light up, and I can almost hear the salivation start, a la Pavlov. So, I am looking forward to learning personally about this blowout.

Until then, we would appreciate a firsthand account of a past party from one of our members, if you would be willing to write up an article for the next *Backbulb*.

Sharon Ashton will be calling people regarding contributions for the potluck in the not-so-distant future, so expect to hear from her, and expect, as well, to contribute something scrumptious.

Appreciation

In the few months since I took over the editing and publication of the *Backbulb*, I have been regularly complimented on the quality and appearance of the newsletter. It is my privilege to bring my skills to bear in returning some of the pleasure that I have experienced in close contact with fellow lovers of these endlessly fascinating plants, so it goes both ways. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

— Howard Straus, Editor

We would like to have an article about someone's past experience of the June COS Birthday Party Potluck. If anyone has enjoyed these celebrations in the past, please write up a little article about it. -Ed.



Lost and Found

Ida Hale would like to report that after last month's meeting (March), she picked up a vest that someone had left behind. If you can describe it, you can have your vest back ... Ida is keeping it safe for you.

Also, the Society once owned a 16mm AOS film on orchids that we have lost track of. It is not that everyone we know has a 16mm projector, but if we can recover it, we can have it transferred to videotape for everyone's enjoyment. Contact any Board member if you have information.

Treasurer's Report - February, 2002



Prior reported Jan. ending balance	\$4,277.07
Bank debit on Jan. 15 for new checks	(52.00)
Checkbook balance on February 1	\$4,225.07
February income	1,097.00
February expenses	(563.53)
 Checkbook balance on February 28	 \$4,758.54
 Value of CD on February 15	 \$7,292.72
(CD rolled over Feb. 15 for a term of 365 days, at an APY of 2.22%)	

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
American Orchid Society?

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Yes No

Email address _____



Upcoming Events

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.

Before the meeting, at 6:45 PM, there will be either a demonstration of how to prepare your plants for sale at the May Faire by Display Director Kathleen Flynn, or a potting demonstration by Bill Hale.

April Board of Directors meeting

April 15, 2002 at 7:30 PM
Ken and Sharon Ashton's home, 26966 Laureles
Grade Road (at Rinconada Road), Carmel Valley.

Bagging Bark for the May Faire

Monday, April 22, 2002, 9:00 AM
241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey
This popular event involves lots of work, great food, and socializing at Bill and Ida Hale's home. Please volunteer!

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 and the many tasks associated with the show!

May monthly meeting

Monday, May 6, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey

May speaker: To be announced. We usually have one of our May Faire exhibitors stay over.

June—Birthday Party

Monday, June 3, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey

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.

Selling Orchids At The May Faire 2002

By Carol Easton

Members of the Carmel Orchids Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. Plants, which are presented for sale, must be disease and pest-free *and* attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself.... *Would I buy this plant?*

Peggy Purchase is in charge of the Plant Table again this year and asked for us to remind members ...

1. Fill out the sales tag as completely as possible. A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.
2. Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot. This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them and creates problems in reading the tags.
3. Bring the plants on Friday afternoon between 12 noon and 5 pm. There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received. Plants may also be brought in on Saturday or Sunday morning just before 9 am and will be put on display as sales space is available.
4. Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30 pm on Sunday.

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references – pedigree – are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted.

A portion of each sale goes to COS and is one of our primary fundraisers during the year. If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up or call Peggy at 624-8442. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member when you bring them in.



Photograph courtesy of Sally Straus



Thanks to our March "Goodies" Volunteers!

A grateful "Thank You" to our March Goodies Volunteers! This month, we owe our thanks to **Cely Cruz, The Jongs, and Ellie Mamon** for their delicious treats, and, as ever, to Ellie Mamon for organizing everyone's efforts.

April goodies:

**Lori Lenz
Marilyn Urilie
Joanne Linarcs**

Bob Hamilton's March Odontoglossum Presentation

I think we all have to hand it to Jim Nybakken for arranging the fascinating, expert speakers we are getting. Bob Hamilton's presentation was a delightful combination of historical information, highly technical data, hybridization facts and absolutely stunning photographs of the plants. These were interspersed with paintings, photographs and memorabilia of odontoglossums past, around the turn of the last century, when they were all the rage in Great Britain. The especially good ones could easily fetch the equivalent of a year's income for a laborer!

Thanks again to Bob and Jim!

Get Well Soon ...

The Board of Directors of the Carmel Orchid Society wishes a speedy and complete recovery to long-time COS member Zane Speiser, who suffered a heart attack and underwent multiple bypass surgery. Hurry back, Zane!

As of March 6, 2002:

Memberships renewed — Thanks!

Ashton, Kenneth & Sharon
Brown, Harry & Jeannette
Chavez, Gerda
Churilla, George
Dunham, Robert
Elisha, Joyce
Freeman, Patty & Gary
McFarlin, Marleen & Dardell
Purchase, Peggy & Opaule



Photo courtesy Bakkehalle Orchids

Help!!

There is a serious issue facing the COS in the very near future, one that could affect us financially. The Crossroads Shopping Center, where we have happily held our Mayfaire for years, has announced their plans to re-

model and expand the Center in two years' time. This itself would not be so significant, if it were not for the fact that they plan to have open and uncovered passages between the buildings. Both weather and security considerations require that we have our Mayfaire in a closed facility, but we have so far been at a loss for a good candidate.

If any member (or members) has a good creative idea, the Board would truly appreciate suggestions. The Mayfaire is our main revenue event for the year, and saves us from having to regularly scrounge for funds. We need a location that is closed, covered, has enclosed spaces for supplies and plants, and, importantly, does not cost us a large amount. Any ideas out there?

The membership chairman would like to remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership that your *Backbulb* can not be sent to you indefinitely. This may be your last issue until you renew your membership. Please take a moment, and renew your membership *today!*



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

(831) 646 8724



***Reminder: If you have not renewed your 2002 Membership Please do so now.
If you do not renew — this may be your LAST Backbulb!***

Carmel Orchid Society

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