



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 5
May 2002

Our May Speakers —

Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers of Petite Plaisance, Valley Ford, Sonoma County

Our speakers for May will be Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers of Petite Plaisance. Petite Plaisance was started in 1981 and has a reputation for well-established plants with a special emphasis on species. Most of their offerings are of mature blooming sized plants. They grow in two growing areas, cool and intermediate to warm, and they have a wide selection of plants grown in pots, in baskets or on mounts. Jim and Ron have been vendors at our May Faire for a number



Photograph courtesy Ida Hale

of years. Their nursery is located in Valley Ford, California in the rolling hills of the wine country of Sonoma County about an hour north of San Francisco. Jim will be presenting a program entitled "Easy to Grow Species" and Ron will be presenting a demonstration on how to mount orchids. If you are interested in learning more about their nursery and seeing color photos of the plants in their catalog you can find them on the Internet at: <http://petite-plaisance>.

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A Notice from Kathy Flynn, In Charge of The May Faire Display:

For those of you who wish to have your plants displayed at the May Faire, the plants **must** be received **before** 8:00 AM Saturday, May 4. Friday would be preferable.

Birthday Party Correction

Your editor must apologize, and on the front page, yet! In the Events Calendar last month, we printed incorrect information about the June Birthday Party. The *real* date and time will be:

Monday, June 10, 2002, at 6:30 pm.

Hints from Bill Hale:

- If you want it to bloom, you've got to feed it. If you don't feed it, it starves, and a starving plant does not bloom
- Vandas need heat, and have to be watered three times a week



Pleurothallid Culture

Draculas and Masdevallias belong to the sub-tribe or general category of orchids known as Pleurothallidinae (Dressler, 1981). This category includes possibly 4,000 species grouped into 29 or 30 genera. These plants are known to inhabit generally higher elevations thruout Central and South America. Within this altitude range are found a variety of habitats including montaine cloud and rain forests, savannah, and semi-arid woodlands with pronounced dry periods. Masdevallia types are found in all habitats; Draculas are only found in very damp cloud and rain forests. The challenge for the collector is to provide analogous climate conditions for these plants artificially, in a home or greenhouse.

Successful Pleurothallid culture requires careful attention to the following items:

- Light
- Temperature
- Water
- Potting medium and method
- Humidity
- Air movement

Most Masdevallias and Draculas grow in deeply shaded habitats under and upon the branches of trees or within the crevices of rocks. A few, such as *M. amabilis* and *M. coriaceae* are exposed to several hours of direct sunlight every day. Nevertheless, these orchids can be made to prosper under artificial light, or as houseplants in relatively low-light situations such as in North- or East-facing windows. Draculas must be kept away from strong sunlight as the thin leaves are very suseptible to stress damage.

Without proper temperature control, culture of these orchids can prove extremely difficult. Temperature ranges for these higher altitude plants fall into primarily two categories: Intermediate, from 55 degree nighttime temperature to 75 degree daytime high, and Cool, from 45 degree at night to 68 - 70 degrees during the day. Only a small percentage of Pleurothallidinae are warm growing. The temperature ranges correspond to differing altitudes of the orchids' habitats. The relationship of temperature to altitude is as follows:



Photograph courtesy Ida Hale

·Warm: (65~85 degrees F) From sea level to 750 meters which includes the coastal littoral and the Amazonian lowlands.

·Intermediate: (55~75 degrees F) From 750m to 2000m. This includes lower montain forest and savannah from Mexico through Central- and Andean South America. The intermediate range corresponds to Cattleya temperatures.

·Cool: (45~70 degrees F) From 2000m to 4000m altitude which includes the cloud and moss forests of the Andean highlands and sub-alpine valleys.

Cooler types will accept slightly higher or lower temperatures for short periods of time; no tropical orchid plant will sustain a freeze. Likewise, sustained temperatures of 80 degrees and above will seriously damage or kill most Pleurothallids. Very few will thrive in temperatures suitable for Vanda or Phalaenopsis: lowland varieties typically grow in shaded locations or near water.

Culture notes for individual species indicate the proper temperature range and the altitude of the native habitat (if known).



From the Editor —

We are still looking for some first person stories or reminiscences from our members, telling us how past Carmel Orchid Society Birthday Celebrations were enjoyed, any culinary delights, extraordinary experiences or fond memories. Any and all contributions will be welcome.

Surely there are members with stories, members who would like to see their words in print, or just members who would like to share their experiences with those of us who have not yet been to one of these famous bashes. Write it up, get it to me. Thanks,

—Ed

**Treasurer's Report -
March, 2002**



Checkbook balance on March 1	\$4,758.54
March income	1,698.00
March expenses	(1,668.68)
Checkbook balance on February 28	\$4,787.86
Value of CD on March 15, 2002	\$7,305.03

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

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. 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 speakers: Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers of Petite Plaisance, Valley Ford, Sonoma County, CA.

June—Birthday Party **CORRECTION!**

Monday, June 10, 2002 at 6:30 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.

Pictures from past May Faires



Photographs courtesy Ida Hale



Photograph courtesy of Sally Straus



Thanks to our April "Goodies" Volunteers!

A grateful "Thank You" to our April Goodies Volunteers! Last month, our luscious snacks were supplied by **Lori Lenz, Marilyn Urilie and Joanne Linarcs** for their delicious cookies and cakes, and, as ever, to Ellie Mamon for organizing everyone's efforts.

May refreshments:

**Frances Richardson
Diane Segelbacher
Lori Lenz
Orland Anderson**



Miscellaneous Notes

The Board of Directors would like to say a special "Thank You" to Jack Blakemore for stepping in as our Temporary *Backbulb* Editor at a time of our greatest need. Well Done, Jack!

Thanks also to **Kathy Flynn and Carolyn Salmon** for a wonderful demonstration of plant preparation for the May Faire before the April monthly meeting.

Harold Ragan, our Treasurer, points out, *pointedly*, that of our last year's membership list, 52 people have not renewed their memberships. Now, it *can't* be because of the cost, which is completely minimal. And we certainly hope we are doing a good job in programs and editorial work. So, we hope that those of you remaining who have still gotten a few "undeserved" *Backbulbs* will take Harold seriously when he says it's time to pony up and get your membership fees in, if you wish to keep the information and goodwill flowing.

At the moment, the Carmel Orchid Society has a total of 134 members at 96 separate addresses.

As of March 6, 2002: Memberships renewed — Thanks!

**Chung, Lalorie
Loleng, Cecilia**

The Board of Directors is delighted that our membership is enjoying the *Backbulb's* new format and content, and would like to remind anyone who has not yet renewed an expired membership that they may not be enjoying it much longer. The membership list is being culled for expired memberships.

Additionally, if you have renewed, and are *not* getting your *Backbulb*, take a moment to ensure that we have your correct, current address, telephone and email.

Thanks!



Photo courtesy Ida Hale



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.
Use the easy membership form on page 3***

Carmel Orchid Society

President	William G. Hale	646-8724	bakkehalleorchids@aol.com
VP Program/Education	James Nybakken	659-4060	nybakken@mml.calstate.edu
Membership	Ken Ashton	659-7387	ashcas@email.msn.com
Secretary	Susan Segal	375-5897	jbills@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Harold Ragan	375-8040	hargan21@cs.com
Backbulb Editor	Howard Straus	625-3565	hdstraus@earthlink.net
May Faire Chairman	Ida Hale	646-8724	imaryhale@aol.com
Birthday party	Ken Ashton	659-7387	ashcas@email.msn.com
Greenhouse Tour	William G. Hale	646-8724	bakkehalleorchids@aol.com
Directors	Carolyn Salmon	375-3748	cargie@yahoo.com
	Bud Foy	624-8872	budfoy@aol.com
	Sharon Ashton	659-7389	ashcas@email.msn.com
	Carol Easton	625-1565	eastonce@aol.com
Hospitality	Ellie Mamon	883-8533	
AOS Representative	Jeffrey Schulman	622-7829	
Hospice Cymbidiums	Peggy Purchase	624-8442	
Ticket Sales	John Mockett	624-9596	