



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 6
June 2002

COS Birthday Party Time

Well, dear members, it's time to bone up on your Potluck Cooking skills. The fabulous blowout known as the COS Birthday Party is fast approaching (June 10, 6:30pm). If you haven't yet spoken to Carol Ashton about what you will be bringing, please get in touch with her as soon as possible.

In addition, Ida reminds us that we need between eight and ten volunteers to help set up the room for the party at noon on the 10th, setting up tables, putting out the cutlery and plates, arranging things so that they will be perfect when the party begins.

Last year, there was a great turn-

out: 90 people showed up. Not only did they leave stuffed with wonderful food, but many took home beautiful plants from the raffle table. There will be a bountiful raffle table this year, too, if you were wondering.

Ida Hale promises us her famous



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus

vanilla punch, appropriate for an Orchid Society party (*vanilla planifolia*), one of the features of the annual bash that those who have attended always look forward to with taste buds tingling.

So, fire up the old kitchen stove, put together a taste treat to thrill your fellow members, and come prepared for a rollicking good time.

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Attention:

If you have not yet heard from Carol Ashton regarding what you will be bringing to the Birthday Party, it is not because she has forgotten you. We are missing the telephone numbers of several of our members. If you suspect we do not have your number, please contact one of the Board members (numbers on the back of the *Backbulb*), and let us know your number as soon as possible.

Our Hearty Congratulations:

To James Nybakken, who was honored by a prize at the May Faire from the American Orchid Society, recognizing his beautiful and rare *Draculus*. Congratulations, James!



Miltonia Culture, including Miltoniopsis

These striking orchids, which are also known as pansy orchids, owing to their similarity to garden pansies, are enjoying increasing popularity. *Miltoniopsis* are cool-growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Panama and Ecuador. The warmer-growing species, properly miltonias, originate from the Minas Gerais area of Brazil and more closely resemble large-flowered oncidiums. Their flowers can be brilliantly patterned.

LIGHT should be relatively shaded. Direct sunlight burns the thin leaves within a short period of time. However, the warmer-growing types prefer more light than their cooler-growing relatives. The cool-growing species need approximately 1,200 foot-candles, while the warmer-growing species require closer to 2,000 foot-candles.

TEMPERATURE is critical for the cooler-growing plants. Unless temperatures are kept under 80 F, they may not flower. The minimum temperature is 50 to 55 F. Thus, these are really better thought of as intermediate growers because they need intermediate temperatures throughout the year - not too hot, not too cold. The warmer growers will take temperatures over 90 F as long as humidity levels of 70 to 75 percent, or higher, are maintained. The minimum temperature is 60 F.

WATER must be plentiful and the medium must drain perfectly. In their native habitat, the plants are drenched almost daily and, because of this, they are intolerant of salt buildup, so leaching every fourth or fifth watering is important when growing in pots. When they are not getting enough water or humidity, the leaves have a tendency to grow with accordionlike pleats. The warmer-growing miltonias should be grown like cattleyas; allow them to approach dryness be-

tween waterings. They also tend to be slightly more tolerant of salt buildup than their Colombian cousins so they can dry more between waterings.

HUMIDITY must be at least 70 percent because of the plants' need for abundant water. Less humidity will stress the plants and can lead to susceptibility to disease, though too much humidity is worse than too little.

FERTILIZE at the same level as other orchids: half-strength, balanced fertilizer every two weeks. This can be reduced by half during overcast weather or in winter. A 10-30-20 blossom-

booster formulation is beneficial in early spring when plants approach their flowering period.

POTTING should be done after flowering when the new growth is starting. *Miltoniopsis* should be repotted every year as they are intolerant of stale conditions.

The cool growers (*miltoniopsis*) do well in small pots. The warmer

growers (*miltonias*) tend to have a relatively elongated creeping habit and, therefore, do better mounted. Any potting mix suitable for fine roots such as 70 percent seedling bark with charcoal and perlite or a mix of 70 percent tree fern and 30 percent chopped sphagnum is adequate. Mounts may be cork, tree fern or other hard wood. They should be longer than wide. For some reason, shallow pans work better than deep pots.



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus

Culture sheet courtesy of the American Orchid Society, 1600 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351.

Tel: 561 404-2100 Fax: 561-404-2100

Email: TheAOS@aos.org, Web site: orchidweb.org



Random Notes —

Your editor had the excellent good luck to sign up for a stint as “security” for the May Faire, not knowing just how rewarding it would be. Now, you may not think that having to be *at* the Crossroads at 7:00 AM on a Saturday morning would be exactly *good*, but I have to say that being there, completely alone, in a shopping mall filled to overflowing with the most beautiful and exotic orchids was a joy that I had not anticipated. This was my first May Faire, and it was exquisite. I must compliment the entire organizing team for the most tremendous and successful job I think I have ever seen.

Judging from the surge of new members, it certainly seems that other people were impressed with the displays, the orchids, the values and the demonstrations.

Bravo to the Board, the Committees, and the Volunteers! - Ed

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



Checkbook balance on April 1	\$4,787.86
April income	876.50
April expenses	(645.00)

Checkbook balance on April 30	\$5,019.36
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Our treasurer, Harold Ragan, reminds us that those who have not yet renewed their memberships have gotten their final reminder. If you do not renew, you will not be on the roster, nor will you be getting the *Backbulb*.

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

June—Birthday Party

Monday, June 10, 2002 at 6:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey

Our annual potluck/birthday party has a history of being a delicious experience and an opportunity to really get to know your fellow members, including the many new members who joined us at the May Faire. Be sure to attend.

June—Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, June 17, 2002 at 7:30 PM
Location to be announced.

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.

August monthly meeting

August 5, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey
August speaker: To be announced.

September Greenhouse Tour

September 15, 2002
Details to be announced

Images from the May Faire



Photographs courtesy of Lori Lenz



Thanks to our May "Goodies" Volunteers!

A grateful "Thank You" from our stuffed members to our May Goodies Volunteers! Last month, our luscious snacks were supplied by **Frances Richardson, Diane Segelbacher, Lori Lenz, Orland Anderson and Shirley West** for their delicious cookies and cakes, and, as always, to Ellie Mamon for organizing everyone's efforts.

And "Hooray" for the May Faire hospitality volunteers. They were nothing short of phenomenal in their quiet and delicious competence!

July refreshments:

Will be arranged at the Birthday Party on June 10. Be sure to sign up.



Comments from Jda Hale

First of all, and most importantly, I would like to thank all the volunteers and workers who helped make the May Faire such a phenomenal success. Everybody was there on time, did what they had volunteered to do, and there were no slipups.

Second, the display and variety of orchids just made me think I was in Heaven. Nobody could have asked for a more spectacular show. Much of this was thanks to the vendors, who brought their best to Carmel.

And last, we have heard from the vendors themselves. In addition to the magnificent hospitality volunteers, who really treated them well, four of the vendors completely sold out their entire inventories, and all the others did extremely well. Several have sent me notes of appreciation, another said that in other shows, he didn't sell as much in four days as he did in two in Carmel! Thanks to all for a fantastic job!

Our membership now consists of 206 members at 148 separate addresses.

As of May 15, 2002: New Memberships — Welcome!

Almader, Gabe & Francisca
Basco, Jose & Lolita
Beard, Mary
Bergner, Vera
Brandewie, Linda
Bush, Jessie & Debbie
Cali, Mai
Devera, Joseph
DeZoysa, Sylvia
DiRocco, Joseph & Rose
Eastman, Margaret "Pinky"
Fallon, Pete
Fisher, Jetaun
Foster, Royce & Jim
Gillette, Amalia
Galaviz, Adela

Hawley, Hildegunn
Holm, Margaret G
Holmes, Wendy & Erin Burke
Howard, Lorraine
Kennedy, Victoria &
Michael Nesmith
Lake, Carolyn
Lake, James
Lawson, Paul & Mary
McCleerey, Terry & Linda
Olson, Lesley
Pavesi, Laure1
Powell, Ingrid
Pritchett, Tad & Sally
Quattrone, Denise 13432
Semple, Judy & Randy
Shapiro, Susan F.
Silverman, Joanna G
Shapley, Fred & Pat
Sheridan, James
Stewart, Rose Mary &

Ron Kondler
Underwood, Bob & Judie
Vorobiov, Olga 26510
Wespiser, Henry & Patricia
Wykoff, Victor & Marilyn

Memberships renewed — Thanks!

Barlich, Jack & Irene
Bradburn, Lisa
Capen, Fred
Heim, Jim and Ann
Hill, Roger and Bev
Low, Phelan
McHenry, Joan
Nakayama, Mas
Santos, Alfred
Speiser, Zane & Imogene
West, Shirley and Peter



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

(831) 646 8724



Reminder: If you wish to enrol in the Carmel Orchid Society, or renew your membership, Please use the easy membership form on page 3

Carmel Orchid Society

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