



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 7

July 2002

Our July Speaker:

Rich Weymouth

Our speaker for July is Rich Weymouth of Pleasant Valley Orchids. He will be speaking to us on "Upgrading Your Collection" which should be of interest to all of us, since we all seem to be continually adding to our collections. Rich is a certified AOS judge and has been raising orchids for about 20 years and commercially for 11 years. Pleasant Valley Orchids is located in the southern end of Sacramento



Photograph courtesy of Lori Lenz

County and has been run by the Weymouth family since 1991. Pleasant Valley Orchids specializes in phalaenopsis, dendrobium, oncidinae, paphiopedilums and phragmipediums as well as a few other varieties. Rich also operates his own orchid laboratory.

Please Note

Perhaps the most important thing to note about Rich's visit is that the order of the meeting will be changed to accommodate him.

As Rich is coming all the way from Sacramento and has a very full schedule for the week, he has requested that he be able to give his presentation first so that he can leave early enough to return to Sacramento the same

evening. Therefore, we need to emphasize that *for this meeting*, the speaker's presentation will be the first item on the agenda, starting at 7:30 pm.

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Hints from Bill Hale ...

- If anyone needs pots for their plants that are in need of new root space, Bill Hale has literally *thousands* of used, but clean, pots for the asking. See Bill and put in your request.
- The potting demonstration before the July 1 meeting will concentrate on cattleyas, but if you have a sick or problem plant, bring it in for Bill to diagnose and help you correct. "The Doctor is *IN*."
- This is the time of the year for cattleyas to be repotted. If you have a cattleya that is growing new roots, *and* the plant is near the edge of its current pot, bring it to the potting demonstration before the July meeting, and Bill will use it to demonstrate repotting technique.



Cattleya Culture

Cattleyas are among the most commonly grown orchids, and their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids.

The flowers in cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors. Culture varies only slightly among most of these groups; this cultural information is a general guide to "standard" cattleya culture.

Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air-plants. Because they are epiphytic, 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 a very porous, free-draining medium.

LIGHT is one of the most important factors in growing and blooming cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse setting or in the home. Bright light to some sun must be given to the plants, but no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means at east, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 30% to 50% of full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles). Leaves should be a medium green color.

TEMPERATURES. Recommended temperatures are 55 to 60 degrees F at night and 70 to 85 degrees during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures 5 to 10 degrees higher. A 10 to 20 degrees differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95 degrees F), if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

WATER should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the pot is dictated by many criteria - size and type of pot, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need slightly more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of medium; it can indicate if a plant needs water. A freshly sharpened pencil inserted in the potting medium can be an indicator of moisture. 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 degrees F may injure plants, as will softened water.

HUMIDITY. Cattleyas need 50% to 80% relative humidity. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water so that the plants stand above the water. Misting the plants in the morning only is helpful in dry climates. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity and/or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse the humidity can be increased by wetting the floor. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZER must be given to cattleyas on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high nitrogen (30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. High-phosphorus or bloom booster (10-30-20) formulation may be used occasionally (every 4 to 6 applications) to

make sturdy growths and promote healthy blooming. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer every two weeks, and when not growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at 1/4 recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when 1) the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the

pot, or 2) the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). It is best to re-pot 1) just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, 2) after flowering, or 3) in the spring time.

Mature cattleyas are usually potted in medium-grade potting material; seedlings in fine-grade. Until a plant has six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, 3 to 5 bulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for 2 to 3 years of growth before crowding the pot. Place a small cone of potting material in the bottom of the pot, cut off any rotten roots, and spread the firm, live roots over the cone. Fill the pot with medium, working it around the roots. Pack firmly; stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots for a while to promote new root growth. A vitamin B1 solution may help re-establish plants quickly.



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus



Treasurer's Report - April-May, 2002



Photograph courtesy Ida Hale

Checkbook balance on April 1	\$4,787.86
April income	876.50
April expenses	(645.00)
Checkbook balance on April 30	\$5,019.36
Value of CD on April 15, 2002	\$7,318.68
Checkbook balance on May 1	\$5,019.36
May income	7,264.65
May expenses	(4,823.38)
Checkbook balance on April 30	\$7,460.64
Value of CD on April 15, 2002	\$7,331.91

Please make sure that COS has your current mailing address, telephone number and email address (if you have one). To make any changes, please use the membership form below.



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

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

There will be a cattleya potting demonstration before the meeting.

July Board of Directors' meeting

July 15, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
Harold Ragan's home,
2161 Trapani Circle, Monterey

August monthly meeting

August 5, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey

Speaker to be announced.

There will be a potting demonstration before the meeting.

Greenhouse Tour

September 15, 2002
Details to be announced

Please note: We plan to return to Monterey in plenty of time for our Jewish members to participate in the observance of *Erev Yom Kippur*.

Thanks to All for the Birthday Party

The Board of Directors has asked your editor to thank all who participated in the wonderful Birthday Party we enjoyed just after the May Faire. Not only did we enjoy the fruits of the culinary artistry of most of our members, who each brought their specialties (and scrumptious they were), but the organization of the event took many volunteers and a lot of work. In particular, there was an incredible plant table for the raffle, probably our most opulent yet, and many members took home not just one but several orchids (snagged a couple myself). It was a grand success, and we thank the participants in whatever capacity you were there! We certainly look forward to next year!



Photographs courtesy Sally Straus



Our July "Goodies" Volunteers!

Well, that Birthday Party sure was a gastronomical blowout, especially the desserts and Ida's famous punches, as anyone with a serious sweet tooth will attest. However, now it is time to think about goodies for July.

Our July refreshments Volunteers:

**Gerda Chavez
Rose DiRocco
Deric Wenzler**



A Grand Thank-You!

The Board of Directors, and your editor extend a huge "Thank You" to Pat Landee and her crew who have elevated the *Backbulb* to a whole new level by printing it in color. As Pat herself said, "Such beautiful flowers and photographs, it is almost a crime to print them in black and white." We couldn't agree more heartily, and think the results speak for themselves. On a selfish note, your editor is gratified at how good Pat's printing makes the *Backbulb* look. All the mechanical work of putting it together bears a special reward now when we see the output looking so, well, *gorgeous!*

In addition, those of you who got our 2002 roster at the Birthday Party in June will also recognize Pat's fine hand in its production, with the beautiful color image on the front cover.

Thank you from all of us, Pat!

An Invitation to Participate

Your Board of Directors invites interested members to participate in, and really contribute to the vigor and ongoing health of the Carmel Orchid Society by expressing an interest in becoming a member of the Board. If you are interested in a position on the Board, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee, or any of the Board members listed on the back page of this *Backbulb*.

As of June 16, 2002: New Members — Welcome!

Wire, Dale

Memberships renewed — Thanks!

Saar, John
Laurel, Jacques
Landee, Pat and Jud Grubbs
McElroy, Dennis
Okamura, Joseph I. & Hisako
Segelbacher, Diane
Sallmon, Lynda
Mamon, Ellie
Switzer, Mike
Flynn, Kathy & Kevin
Ishikawa, Roy
Beard, Mary
DiRocco, Joseph & Rose
Lum, David & Helena



Photograph courtesy Lori Lenz



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

(831) 646 8724



To become a member of the Carmel Orchid Society, use the easy membership form on page 3

Carmel Orchid Society

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