



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 45, Number 8

August 2002

Our August Speaker —

Steve Gettel of Sunset Orchids

Our speaker for August will be Steve Gettel. Steve is the owner of Sunset Orchids, a commercial orchid nursery in the San Francisco area, and has been a vendor at our May Faire for a number of years. He primarily grows odontoglossums, masdevallias, lycastes, and draculas. He will be speaking to us on lycastes. Steve will provide the plant table and may well be selling additional plants.



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The Doctor is "JN":

Bill Hale, our resident "hands-on" expert, will be available before the August meeting of the Society to diagnose and suggest treatments for your ill and ailing plants. Bring in any plants you think need help, and Bill will guide you.



Lycastes Culture

This genus produces large, showy triangular flowers that are waxy and long-lasting. The plants are distinctive for their roundish bulbs and broad, plicate(pleated) leaves. Two cultural groups are generally recognized -- the evergreen skinneri type, that flowers from leafy pseudobulbs, and the deciduous aromatica type, that flowers from leafless pseudobulbs. Culture for the hybrid genus *Angulocaste*(*Lycaste* x *Anguloa*) follows the culture for the *Lycaste* parent.

LIGHT requirements vary. Deciduous species prefer light conditions as for cattleyas 2,000 to 4 000 foot-candles or 50% to 70% shade. More light is usually provided as new growths form pseudobulbs. Evergreen species prefer less light, 1,500 to 2,000 foot-candles or 60% to 80% shade.

TEMPERATURE for the evergreen species should be fairly constant and never hot. Nights of 52 to 58 degrees F and days of 65 to 78 degrees F are desirable. The deciduous species of *Lycaste* can tolerate a wider range, up to 95 degrees F during the day and down to 50 degrees F at night when dormant in the winter.

WATER should be applied in larger amounts during, active growth (usually summer) than when the plants are not producing new leaves and pseudobulbs. The potting medium should just begin to dry out before watering. Deciduous species should be kept almost completely dry when leafless; evergreen species should be kept only slightly drier than normal after pseudobulbs form. Water should be kept off the leaves, and especially out of new growths, to prevent rot or leaf spotting.

HUMIDITY should be maintained at 40% to 70%. Deciduous species need less humidity when

dormant. Brisk air circulation will help prevent damage to leaves by leafspot fungi.

FERTILIZER should be applied regularly and heavily when plants are actively growing. A high nitrogen formulation (30-10-10) is recommended during active growth (usually summer); some growers top-dress the potting medium with blood meal as new pseudobulbs form. In fall, or as growths mature and pseudobulbs are produced, fertilizer is reduced and/or switched to a high phosphorus (10-30-20) formulation to stimulate flower production.

POTTING is best when new growth starts, usually in spring. A fine-grade potting medium is often used; fir bark and perlite (3:1) is a common, well-draining mix. When repotting, split plants into no less than two bulbs per pot and choose a pot to allow for two years of growth. The bottom one quarter to one third of the pot should be filled with drainage material, either broken crock, rocks, or



Lycastes cochleata

Styrofoam "peanuts". The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growths are farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the pseudobulbs. Firm the medium well around the roots by applying pressure. Keep humidity high and the potting medium on the dry side until new roots form. A vitamin B1 compound may help establish newly potted plants.

Prepared by: Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.



Photograph courtesy Lori Lenz

Treasurer's Report - March, 2002



Checkbook Balance on June 1	\$7,460.64
June income	419.00
June expense	(2,399.39)
Checkbook Balance on June 30	\$5,480.25

CD balance on June 15 was \$7,345.61

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

August monthly meeting

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

Speaker Steve Gettel of Sunset Orchids.

Before the meeting, Bill Hale will be “The Orchid Doctor”, examining your ailing plants and recommending treatments for them. Bring in any plants you have that need help.

August Board of Directors’ meeting

August 19, 2002 at 6:30 PM
Ken and Sharon Ashton’s home,
26966 Laureles Grade Road
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Note: This is a very important meeting, and will include the members of the May Faire Board. Please plan to attend.

September monthly meeting

September 2, 2002 at 7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado
Monterey

Speaker to be announced.

Greenhouse Tour and Barbeque

September 15, 2002
We will meet at the parking lot of the K-Mart at Canyon del Rey and Route 1 at 8:30 AM to arrange carpooling.
We will be visiting Maplethorpe Orchids in Soquel and Rod McLellan Co. and Blossoming Orchids, both in Aromas. Details in story on page 5.
Barbeque at the last stop, beef tri-tips, chicken and vegetarian entrees will be served. Signup coupon at right.

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*.

The Orchid Hobbist's Creed

Orchids are, to me, an escape from artificiality into a sane world of order and balance. They give me a feeling of security, and satisfy a primitive need for the assurance of unchanging fundamentals. In my greenhouse I find never-shifting values. I find the eternal laws of the universe in a most tangible form.

Growing orchids makes me humble. For there, I am working with a force far stronger than I. When i realize that flowers absorb color, perfume, beauty, and form from within a dimension beyond my understanding, my belief in god is strengthened. Orchid culture satisfies my hunger for spiritual beauty and creation.

If ideals seem futile, if friends disappoint me, if my heart is sad, or my mind in turmoil, if my eyes are dull, and my body sluggish, I can go into the greenhouse, among my orchids, and find faith, tranquility, comfort and physical exercise, all of which gives me a renewed feeling of well-being, confidence ... and inspiration. — *Anon.*

Call for Hospice Watering Volunteers

If you would be willing to help water the orchids at the Hospice, please call Jack Blakemore at 624 9003 or Peggy Purchase at 624 8442 for details.

Greenhouse Tour Signup Coupon

Yes! I will be attending the September 15th Greenhouse Tour. Please reserve the following for me:

____ Members @ \$10.00 each \$ _____
____ Guests @ \$15.00 each _____
Total: \$ _____

My preference for meals is:

____ Beef tri-tips ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian entrées

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

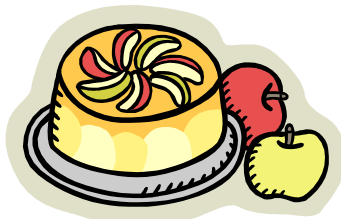
Telephone (____) _____

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society, and mail them to: Ida M. Hale, 241 Lerwick Dr., Monterey, CA. 93940 by Sept. 5, 2002



Thanks to our July "Goodies" Volunteers!

A grateful "Thank You" to our July Goodies Volunteers! Last month, our luscious snacks were supplied by **Gerda Chavez, Rose Di-Rocco and Deric Wenzler** for their delicious treats, and, as ever, to our faithful Ellie Mamon for orchestrating everyone's efforts.



August refreshments:

**Patricia Wespiser
Lori Lenz
Howard Straus
Tom Bremser**

As of July 15, 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!

Greenhouse Tour Sept. 15

It's the time of year again that brings us to our usually glorious Greenhouse Tour. Last year was your editor's first, and it was quite an experience. Lavish, colorful, exotic and fragrant blooms did much to cement our enjoyment of these ever-fascinating plants. Of course, we ended up by acquiring many more orchids than we had planned on, but what a wonderful weakness. (Our Sherry Baby fills the house with chocolate, prompting its nickname "Willy Wonka")

This year we are going to start out by meeting at the K-Mart parking lot (Canyon del Rey at Rte. 1) at 8:30 AM on Sunday Sept. 15,

2002, where we will arrange carpooling for the tour.

The first greenhouse will be Maplethorpe Orchids at 3300 Maplethorpe Lane in Soquel. We plan to visit about an hour and 15 minutes. We ask that no one leave before that time.

Next, we'll head out to Rod McLellan Co. at 2352 San Juan Road in Aromas. Our last stop will be Blossoming Orchids just down the road, where we will finish with a barbecue. For this year's meal, we shall be offering chicken, beef and a vegetarian entrées. Please make your selections on the signup coupon. Our chefs have asked us for no early arrivals, please. The cost for the tour will be \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for guests.

A maximum of 60 reservations will be accepted, so get your bid in early. Please use the form on page 4. If you have any folding chairs, we would *really* appreciate your bringing them, as there will not be enough seating otherwise.

Reservations are due by September 5th. There will be maps to the greenhouses in the next *Backbulb*.



Photograph courtesy Lori Lenz



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	bnybakken@redshift.com
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	