



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 1

January 2003

Our January Speaker:

Michael Glickbar of Orchids of Los Osos

Our January speaker will be Michael Glickbar of Orchids of Los Osos in Los Osos, CA.

The title of his chat will be "Odontoglossum and Zygopetalum, their Culture, Care and Pests."

One might say that Michael's involvement with orchids has a genetic component. His father was a collector of orchids in the wild. Michael developed his interest in orchids while he was a student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, from which he graduated in 1979. That same year, he bought Orchids of Los Osos from a Frenchman, George Moran. Michael tells us that the reason that he chose

Los Osos was for its great climate. At the time of the purchase, the business

had 2,000 square feet of orchids, but Michael has since vastly expanded the space to 40,000 square feet, much to the delight of those of us who visited him on the 2001 Greenhouse Tour.

Michael's specialties are the cool growing tolerant genera, like Miltonia, Cymbidium, Masdevallia, Odontoglossum and Zygopetalum, to name a few, but he also grows many other varieties, including Alemania.

Michael is a member of the Carmel Orchid Society, and will participate in the next May Faire. Come help us welcome Michael in January.



Odontoglossum Margarete Holm

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Dendrobium speciosum



Epidendrum Purum



Cymbidium Culture

These orchids are prized for their sprays of large flowers, used especially as cut flowers or for corsages in the spring-time. There are two main types of cymbidiums - standards and miniatures. Where summers are warm (above 90 degrees F), only miniatures are recommended, because they are more heat-tolerant and bloom in warmer weather.

LIGHT is very important for growing cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright areas in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many of our climates, the high level of light cymbidiums need is accompanied by high temperatures in the summer, which may cause the plants not to bloom. There are several ways to counteract this: spray the plants with water during summer afternoons to cool the plants down, shade more heavily and increase air movement. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20% shade. In cool areas (e.g., coastal California), full sun is tolerated. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green. Shade more in the winter, especially if in bud.

TEMPERATURE is the most critical factor in blooming cymbidiums of either type. During the summer, standard cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semi-shade, where day temperatures should be 75 to 85 degrees F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to fall (August to October) must be 50 to 60 degrees F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 degrees F at night and 65 to 75 degrees F during the day. When in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55 and 75 degrees F. Miniatures can stand temperatures 5 to 10 degrees higher than standards and still bloom well. Most cymbidiums can stand light frosts and survive, but it is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40 degrees F; in mild climates they may be grown outside year-round. A bright and cool location inside is best for winter months.

WATER must be provided at all times to cymbidiums. As semi-terrestrials, they need a fairly constant supply of moisture. Since they produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer months, they need the most water then. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting medium from drying out completely,

and reduce water when the pseudobulbs are completed in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

HUMIDITY outdoors is usually sufficient during the summer months, except in dry climates. There, evaporative cooling in a greenhouse, or misting outside, is necessary. Keep humidity at 40%-60% during the winter, especially if plants are in bud. Keep the air moving to prevent fungus (Botrytis) from spotting the flowers.

FERTILIZING at the proper time will help cymbidiums bloom. During the growth season (spring through late summer), high-nitrogen fertilizer (like 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, bloom-booster fertilizer (like 10-30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

POTTING is usually done in the spring after blooming, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Divisions of green bulbs with leaves must have 3 to 4 bulbs minimum to bloom; bulbs without leaves are considered backbulbs, and need special care to grow (see below). Pick a potting mix that will hold moisture well; a medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and



Cymbidium

perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least 2 to 3 years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing bulb (s) of the division farthest from the side of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot, and fill the pot with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly. The junction of roots and pseudobulbs should be about 1/2" to 1" below the top of the mix. Keep shaded, drier at roots but humid, until new roots grow.

Backbulbs may be left on the division to add strength, or removed to propagate. Take single backbulbs, and bury halfway in a bark or peat/sand mix. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above. It may take up to three years to produce a blooming-size plant from this method.

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



Treasurer's Report - December, 2002



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus

Checkbook Balance on November 1	\$3,468.59
November income	722.00
November expense	(507.31)
Checkbook Balance on November 30	\$3,683.28

CD balance on November 15 was **\$7,399.78**

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 **\$ 15.00** for a single or **\$ 25.00** 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

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 6, 2003, at 7:30pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Carmel Orchid Society January Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, January 20, 2003 at 6:30pm
James Nybakken's home,
151 Country Club Drive
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
659 4060

Peninsula Orchid Society Show

January 4-5, 2003.
Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City.
Website: www.penorchidsoc.org

Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show

February 8-9, 2003
Soquel High School
401 Old San Jose Road
Soquel, CA.
Contact Vicky Smith, 831-336-2688.

San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition

February 20-23, 2003
Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco.
Contact Dennis Westler: 510-339-8626.
This is the largest orchid show in our area and an excellent venue to see a very wide selection of orchids with many vendors to purchase from.

Images From the Christmas Party



Board of Directors Thumbnail: Susan Segal, Vice President

As Vice President of the Carmel Orchid Society, Susan Segal is responsible, among her duties, for arranging our monthly speakers, taking them to dinner before the meetings, and making sure they get to the meeting on time and well-fed.

Susan has always been interested in orchids, but until she moved to the Monterey Peninsula three years ago, has never lived in a place where she could grow them. But she has sure made up for lost time. Susan now has between 60 and 70 orchids, and is experimenting to see which plants work best for her environment. At the moment, Susan says, she is delighted to have two Cattleyas in bloom, always a spectacular show.

As well as orchids, Susan tells us, she has always liked to grow "all kinds of 'weird' plants." We like to think of them as "exotic."

Susan originally comes from Canada, but grew up in West Los Angeles, where she graduated from UCLA, majoring in Fine Arts. She now works in commercial real estate, and specializes in hotels and motels.

We welcome Susan to her new post.



Spectacular Fare at Annual COS Christmas Party

Well, I hope that you didn't ignore our recommendations to come to the annual Carmel Orchid Society Christmas Party! If you did, you missed a fabulous meal, a fifty-foot plant table of gorgeous orchids, and delicious desserts.

The Monterey Beach Resort, at Canyon Del Rey and the ocean put out a plentiful and delicious buffet that included something for everyone, including your local vegetarians. Bill Hale, who will retire from having worked there for over 30 years, prepared one of his specialties, Pommes Anna, a scrumptious creamed potato dish.

As if the meal was not enough, it was followed by a beautiful dessert buffet, with cakes, cookies and gingerbread creations.

Over 100 plants were raffled off; the ticket sales for the drawing went off the chart. Nobody could remember a more successful evening. Great organizing, Ida, and thanks to everyone else who made the evening a success.



Random Notes From Your Editor

First of all, I must apologize (again) for an error that has caused many of you inconvenience, not the least of whom is Harold Ragan, our Treasurer. I did announce the annual dues change in the text of the *Backbulb*, but forgot to change the fee in the membership application. This, I

know, has resulted in many of you getting your renewals back in the mail from Harold, and having to resubmit your checks with the increased amounts.

For each of you, that has been an inconvenience, for Harold, I fear, a nightmare.

Please accept my apologies, and I *have* corrected the problem in this issue (and henceforth).

Now, on to happier matters. I surely enjoyed the Christmas Party, so ably organized by Ida and her Santa's Helpers. Bill's contribution was delicious, and the food was plentiful and delicious. I'm com-

ing again next year, though my wife and I seem to have been the only people there who didn't come away with a beautiful plant.

I was very pleased that Ida acknowledged the most superb contribution to the appearance and quality of the *Backbulb* made by Pat Landee and Judd Grubbs. I would like to expand on their contributions just a little bit.

Although I had been doing a credible job on the production of the *Backbulb* until her arrival, Pat Landee was quite put out that such a good-looking publication, containing many images of these extravagantly-colored plants would be printed in *black and white*. Though I regretted it myself, I didn't have the wherewithal to remedy the situation. But Pat, woman of action that she is, did, and put it to good use. No small undertaking, this, as it requires the programs, knowledge, equipment and, above all, patience to do. It is not widely known that to print the *Backbulb* for all the members takes a color inkjet printer half a day to do. Pat and Judd have gallantly taken up the challenge, and lovingly produce the excellent product that you hold before you.

Now, as Editor, I get most of the compliments on the new format and layout, the pictures and graphics. But I want to say it is a pleasure to do the work when the result turns out so well. So, please let Pat and Judd know you appreciate it, too.

I am also truly grateful for the photographs of orchids contributed by my wife, Sally Straus, whose hobby is photography. She has greatly beautified our newsletter. Thanks, Sally.



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus



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