



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 3

March 2003

Our March Speaker: Leo Kusber of Lion's Den Orchids

Leo Kusber is president of Kusber Enterprises Inc., a specialty metal fabrication company that has supplied wire forms and metal components to many San Francisco Bay Area industries since 1936. He is a past president of the Peninsula Orchid Society, where he has been active on the board of directors and instrumental in creating many displays at the San Francisco and Peninsula Orchid shows. He and his wife, Annamaria, own and operate Lion's Den Orchids, where they have greenhouses, a lath house and a lab where he is hybridizing and propagat-

ing Zygopetalums and their inter-genetic crosses.

We would like to thank Leo for coming to speak on very short notice, as our previously scheduled speaker had cancelled at the last moment, giving Susan Segal, our Vice President in charge of arranging speakers, a virtual heart attack. Let's all welcome Leo!

Lion's Den Orchids
275 Olive Hill Lane
Woodside Ca 94066
(email: zygoguy@aol.com)

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Dues Notice

The Board of Directors has asked us to call to the members' attention that according to our bylaws, annual COS dues are payable January 1st for the calendar year, and become delinquent on April 1st. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2003, please get them in. After all, you don't want to miss a *Backbulb*, now do you?



Photograph courtesy of Pat Landee

Orchid Growing Tips from Bill Hale

- To stop slugs from eating your spikes and buds, wrap the spike below the buds with cotton balls. Slugs will not climb past the cotton.
- If you see one mealybug, your plant is infested. Spray the plant with a mixture of one part rubbing alcohol, one part

409, and two parts water. This will kill the adults.

- Phaleanopsis need containers of the right size. Too small and they will stop growing, too large and the roots can't get to the water. Eventually, the wet bark will rot and cause the roots to rot, too. Repot phal's before the winter comes.



Odontoglossum Alliance Culture

These New World Tropics, high-altitude orchids are popular where cool temperatures prevail. The Colombian miltonias (truly Miltoniopsis) and showy odontoglossums have striking sprays of flowers. Culture is similar for hybrids in this group, some being Odontonia, Odontioda and Vuylstekeara.

LIGHT levels should be bright. An east window or a shaded south window in the home is ideal; western exposures are usually too warm in most climates. In a greenhouse, levels from 2,000 to 5,000 foot-candles are acceptable; some Miltoniopsis growers demand the pink flushing in the plants' leaves which results from the high light levels. If summer day temperatures are high, light levels can be reduced to cool the growing area.

TEMPERATURE is critical for these plants; day temperatures below 75 to 80 degrees F are preferred year-round. Night temperatures of 55 to 58 degrees F are best. Short periods of warmer day temperatures may be tolerated, especially if humidity and air movement are at optimal levels and nights are cool. Miltoniopsis plants prefer night temperatures at the upper end of the range while many odontoglossums thrive at 50 to 55 degrees F at night.

WATER should be plentiful, coupled with perfect drainage. The potting medium should just start to dry before watering again. "Accordion-pleating" on miltonia leaves is a symptom of insufficient water or humidity, and may appear on plants of other genera if severe. This may mean watering every two to seven days, depending on weather, pot size and material, and type of potting medium.

HUMIDITY ideally 40% to 80%, is important for all these orchids, coupled with moving air. In the home, set the plants on trays above moist pebbles,

with the pot resting above the water. Misting is beneficial, but in the mornings only. Evaporative cooling in a greenhouse increases humidity while cooling the air and is highly recommended for these orchids in most climates. Fogging the air or dampening the floor with water also helps cool and humidify.

FERTILIZER should be applied regularly while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10

formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based potting medium. A 20-20-20 formulation should be used on other media or on slabs. If weather is dull applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high-phosphorus 10-30-20 formulation bloom booster as plants approach flowering.

REPOT as new growth emerges from the base of the plant which is usually in the spring or fall. These orchids like to be very pot-bound, so when repotting leave only enough room for one to two years of new growth. A fine-grade potting medium with excellent drainage is required; since the medium is kept moist, annual or bi-annual repotting is normal. Usually the lowest one-quarter to one-third of the pot is filled with drainage material,

either crock shards, rocks, or Styrofoam "peanuts". Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium. Firm the potting medium well around the roots by applying pressure. Keep humidity high and the pot dry until new roots form. A vitamin B1 compound may help establish newly potted plants.



Odm. spectatissimum

This culture sheet is provided courtesy of the Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus



Photograph courtesy Pat Landee

Treasurer's Report January, 2002



Checkbook Balance on January 1	\$1,749.73
January income	2,410.00
January expense	(439.03)
Checkbook Balance on January 31	\$3,720.70

CD balance on January 15 was **\$7,440.90**

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 El Dorado, Monterey. Membership **\$ 15.00** for a single or **\$ 20.00** for two at the same address, **\$ 25.00** Vendor membership. Please make checks 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, March 3, 2003, at 7:30pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Leo Kusber of Lion's Den Orchids.
See article on p. 1.
Bill Hale will be repotting a phragmipedium before the meeting. Be sure to attend.

Carmel Orchid Society February Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2003 at 7:30pm
At Ken and Sharon Ashton's home
26966 Laureles Grade Road
Carmel Valley

Bakkehale Orchids Annual Cymbidium Sale

Saturday, March 22, 2003 from 9:00am to 2:00pm
At Bill and Ida Hale's home
241 Lerwick Drive
Monterey, CA 93940
For more information or directions, call Bill or Ida at 646 8724.
This is always a popular event, as you can get some excellent plants at good prices.

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2003, at 7:30pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: To be announced.



Photograph courtesy Sally Straus

MayFaire 2003: Hospitality Makes It Special

The growers and volunteers are always delighted by the wonderful feast which our COS members provide during the MayFaire. Wonderful salads, special dishes and delicious desserts attract everyone to this special courtesy for our vendors and volunteers.

We will have food sign-ups at the April COS meetings. Bill Hale, our past President and the Hospitality Chairperson for the MayFaire will be pleased to hear from you if you have something special to contribute or are unable to sign-up at the meeting. This is the time for all of you wonderful cooks to make your special dishes.

Food should be delivered to the Hospitality room, across from the Sheriff's Substation office in the mall, by 10:00 AM each day. This will provide time for Bill and his committee to set up the luncheon. If you would like to bring some treats for break time during the morning or afternoon, you may leave it in the Hospitality room for the committee to arrange.

The vendors are constantly telling us that this is one of their favorite shows because they are treated so kindly and the food is great! Compliments to all our talented members and thanks for keeping up the tradition!

Bakkehale Orchids Annual Cymbidium Overstock Sale, March 22, 2003

Bakkehelle Orchids is overstocked with cymbidium and other orchids and we are having a sale to reduce our inventory.

Here is your chance to obtain some outstanding cymbidium clones and prices which are below the prices asked at Costco and Safeway. All plants are blooming size and most will be in spike or bloom.

The sale will take place on Saturday, March 22 from 9am to 2pm at the residence of Ida and Bill Hale at 241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey. Payment for the plants purchased may be by cash or check only.

The Hale residence is located two blocks east of the Monterey Fairgrounds and 4 blocks up from Fremont Street.

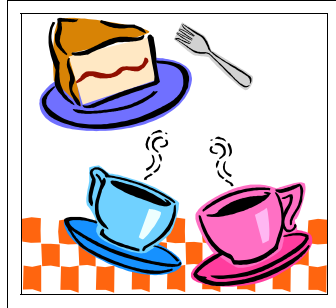


March Goodies Volunteers

Delicious goodies for our February meeting were provided by “Tante” Gerda Chavez, Kathy Scott, Carolyn Salmon, Susan Phillips and Kathy Apodaca. And our thanks, as always, to Ellie Mamon who labors quietly, competently and always behind-the-scenes to prepare and present the goodies as soon as the speaker is finished. Thanks, one and all.

Our March Goodies Volunteers are:

**Kazuko
The Jongsens
Roberta Singer
Cely Cruz
Dinna Silacci**



Selling Orchids At The MayFaire 2003

Members of the Carmel Orchids Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. Plants that are presented for sale must be disease and pest-free *and* attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself... *Would I buy this plant?*

Peggy Purchase is in charge of the Plant Table again this year and asked for us to remind members...

1. **Fill out the sales tag as completely as possible.** A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.

2. **Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot.** This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them and creates problems in reading the tags.

3. **Bring the plants on Friday afternoon between 12 noon and 5pm.** There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received. Plants may also be brought in on Saturday or Sunday morning just before 9am and shall be put on display as sales space is available.

4. **Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30pm on Sunday.**

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references – pedigree – are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted.

A portion of each sale goes to COS and is one of our primary fund-raisers during the year. If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up or call Peggy at 624-8442. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member when you bring them in.

Random Notes from the Editor

If you missed the February meeting, you really missed a good one. Dennis Olivas delivered a highly knowledgeable and lively presentation. Those of us who were novices enjoyed it as much as the experts. All could learn from this charming orchid-lover.

In addition, we were again treated to one of Bill Hale's pre-meeting potting demonstration. It is really worthwhile going to these, as the pearls of wisdom gleaned from decades of growing spectacular orchids dripped from him like dew. We must apologize for not notifying our members of the demonstration, but we were as surprised as anyone else was. Hopefully, we will be able to get word to more people, as these demonstrations are incredibly educational. Repotting completely loses its terrors after a couple of times watching Bill and sometimes his assistants.

It was also a pleasure to see several new faces in the crowd. Welcome aboard to our new members!



P. O. Box 2454
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(831) 646 8724



Carmel Orchid Society

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