



# The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 4

April 2003

## Our April Speaker: Scott Collins, Echo Valley Orchids, on Phalaenopsis and Orchid Judging

Scott Collins has been growing orchids since 1984, a relatively short time in orchid growing longevity. His nursery, Echo Valley Orchids, specializes in hybridizing Phalaenopsis, particularly multifloral and novelty types. Along with Phalaenopsis, they grow some Paphs, Phrags, and an increasing number of miniature Cattleyas. Over the years, the nursery has garnered over 75 AOS quality awards for their hybrids. Scott has spoken to a wide



*Phal. fasciata*

range of Orchid audiences throughout the United States and Canada and was a featured speaker at the World Orchid Congress in Vancouver, BC. Scott is also an Accredited judge of the American Orchid Society and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Pacific Central Judging Region of the AOS. Locally, Scott has been a member of the Santa Cruz Orchid Society and has been a board member for many years including the Presidency and Vice Presidency.

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## Check out the New Carmel Orchid Society Web Site

Be sure to check out the Carmel Orchid Society's new website at [www.carmelorchidsociety.org](http://www.carmelorchidsociety.org). Pat Landee and Jud Grubbs have put a lot of work into making it easy to use and beautiful, and it is worth a look, if you have access to the Worldwide Web. Any of you who has done one of

these sites knows how much work it is to generate and maintain, and this one is no exception.

When you look at the site, you will be seeing a "work in progress," but that does not detract from its excellence. Bravo and thanks to Pat and Jud!

**Please Note:** The date of the June COS Birthday Party Potluck has been moved to Monday, June 16. Put it on your calendar now!



# Phalaenopsis Culture

Phalaenopsis the moth orchid, is one of the best orchids for growing in the home, and is also a favorite with greenhouse growers. Culture for *Doritis*, a related genus, and *Doritaenopsis*, a hybrid between the two genera, is the same as for pure *Phalaenopsis*.

**LIGHT** is easy to provide for phalaenopsis. They grow easily in a bright window, with little or no sun. An east window is ideal in the home; shaded-south or west windows are acceptable. In dull, northern winter climates, a full south exposure may be needed. Artificial lighting is excellent. Usually four fluorescent tubes in one fixture are placed 6" to 1' over the leaves, 12 to 16 hours a day, following natural daylength. In a greenhouse heavy shade must be given; 70% to 85 shade, or between 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles, is optimum. No shadow should be seen if you hold your hand one foot above the plant's leaves.

**TEMPERATURES** for phalaenopsis should usually be above 60 degrees F at night, and range between 75 and 85 degrees F or more during the day. Although higher temperatures force faster vegetative growth, higher humidity and air movement must accompany higher temperatures, the recommended maximum being 90 to 95 degrees F. Night temperatures to 55 degrees F are

desirable for several weeks in the fall, in order to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

**WATER** is especially critical for phalaenopsis. Because they have no major water-storage organs other than their leaves, they must never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered and not watered again until nearly dry through the pot. In the heat of summer in a dry climate, this may be every other day in the winter in a cool northern greenhouse, it may be every ten days. Water only in the morning, so that the leaves are dry by nightfall, to prevent rot from occurring on the leaves.

**HUMIDITY** is important to phalaenopsis, the recommended humidity being between 50% and 80%. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water so that the pots never sit in water. Mist the plants in

dry climates, or during dry weather, in the mornings only. Grouping plants together raises the humidity by conserving the water that plants transpire. In humid climates, as in greenhouses, it is imperative that the humid air is moving to prevent fungal or bacterial diseases. Again, leaves should be dry as soon as possible, always by nightfall.

**FERTILIZER** should be applied on a regular schedule, especially if the weather is warm, when the plants are most often growing. Twice-a-month applications of high-nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10, or a similar formulation) are appropriate in warm, humid conditions. When flowering is desired a high-phosphorus fertilizer (10-30-20, or a similar formulation) may be applied to promote blooming. Some growers apply fertilizer at 1/4 strength with every watering; this is best for warm, humid conditions. When cooler,

or under dull conditions, fertilizer should be applied once a month.

**POTTING** is best done in the spring, after blooming. *Phalaenopsis* plants must be potted a well-draining mix, such as fir bark treefern, various types of stone, sphagnum moss, or combinations of these. Potting is usually done every 1 to 3 years. Mature plants can grow in the same pot until the potting medium starts to decompose, usually in two years. Root rot occurs if plants are let in a soggy



*Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope*

medium. Seedlings usually grow fast enough to need repotting yearly, and should be repotted in a fine-grade medium. Mature plants are potted in medium-grade medium. When mature, a plant may stay in the same pot size for many years, but must have the medium changed. To repot, remove all the old medium from the roots, trim soft, rotted roots, and spread the remaining roots over a handful of medium in the bottom of a new pot. Fill the rest of the pot with medium, working it through the roots, so that the junction of the roots and the stem is at the top of the medium. Keep the plant shaded and humid, but drier in the pot, for several weeks to promote new root growth. A vitamin B1 solution may be helpful in establishing plants.

Prepared by: Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405



Photograph courtesy Shirley West



Photograph courtesy Carol Easton

## Treasurer's Report February, 2002



Checkbook Balance on February 1	<b>\$3,720.70</b>
February income	2,718.00
February expense	(748.52)
Checkbook Balance on February 28	<b>\$5,690.18</b>

CD balance on February 15 was **\$7,454.80**

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, I nc.

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 **\$ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ New Member  Renewal



## Upcoming Events

### **Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting**

Monday, April 7, 2003, at 7:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church

510 El Dorado Street

Monterey, CA 93940

Speaker: Scott Collins. See article on p. 1.

Bill Hale will be repotting a phalaenopsis before the meeting at 6:45pm. Bring in your problem phal. for first aid, but, please, not if it might have a virus.

### **Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, April 8, 2003, at 6:30pm (second Tuesday of every month)

At the Community Bank, Community Room, 6th Floor, 301 Main Street, Salinas, CA. Entrance on Alisal. For more information, call (408) 375 6871.

### **Carmel Orchid Society April Board of Directors' Meeting**

Monday, April 21, 2003 at 7:30pm

At Ken and Sharon Ashton's home

26966 Laureles Grade Road

Carmel Valley, CA

### **Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire**

Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4, 2003, 9am-4:30pm

The Crossroads Shopping Center Mall

Between Safeway and Long's Drugs

Rio Road and Highway 1, Carmel, CA

### **June COS Birthday Party Potluck**

Monday, June 16, 2003, at 7:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church

510 El Dorado Street

Monterey, CA 93940

## The Big Display, MayFaire 2003

One of the major attractions at the MayFaire Orchid Show and Sale is always the members display under the flags in the Rotunda at the Crossroads Mall. This is a very special display of many, many varieties of blooming orchids. In order to create the splendor of orchids for which the MayFaire is famous, we need your contributions!

The display will be assembled on Friday afternoon under the able direction of Joyce Elisha. **Plants should be brought to the Crossroads Mall anytime between 12-4pm on Friday, May 2nd.** The show opens at 9am on Saturday morning, May 3rd and the display must be in place!

Members are encouraged to bring their plants in an attractive container or basket. The plants will be shined with leaf polish and have moss placed around the base unless written instructions are attached to the plant that it is not to be shined and the plant is already attractively presented and the member has furnished his/her own moss. If you cannot bring the plants in yourself, please contact another COS member to assist you. Last minute additions may be accepted before 8am on Saturday if space is available.

At the conclusion of the show the display will be disassembled by Joyce and her Committee, moss removed and the plants will be available from where the Plant Sale table was located during the show. **No plants are available until 4:30pm on Sunday, May 4th.**

The Guidelines that have been adopted for the MayFaire include:

- 1. All plants are pest and disease free.**
- 2. The leaves are clean and attractive (COS will clean with Plant Shine unless otherwise specified by the grower).**
- 3. Plant is blooming to display its special attributes.**
- 4. Pot is provided with an outer container.**
- 5. Moss covers the base of the plant (provided by COS).**
- 6. Plants should be staked and secured appropriately.**

**Members will want to pick up their plants promptly at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 4th** because there is no storage or security for plants that are left after the show is concluded. We hope that members will be available at that time anyway to help in closing the show and sale and assisting with clean up. Many hands make light work for all! See you there!

## Get Well Soon!

The Board of Directors and the Membership of the Carmel Orchid Society would like to wish Dinna Silacci a speedy recovery! See you soon, Dinna.



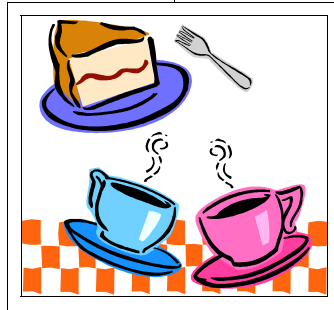


## March Goodies Volunteers

I don't know if it is my imagination, or if the goodies just keep getting better and more plentiful! Scrumptious goodies for our March meeting were provided by **Kazuko, The Jongens, Roberta Singer, Cely Cruz and Dinna Silacci**. We express our gratitude, as always, to **Ellie Mamon** who labors quietly, competently and behind-the-scenes to prepare and present the goodies as soon as the speaker is finished. Thanks, one and all.

Our April Goodies Volunteers are:

**Lupe Rubio**  
**Diane Segelbacher**  
**Emelita Harvey**  
**Frances Richardson**  
**Ellie Mamon**  
**Patricia Wespiser**



## 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 MayFaire Hospitality Chairperson will be pleased to hear from you if you have something special to contribute or unable to sign-up at the meeting. This is the time for all of you wonderful cooks to make your special dish.

Food should be delivered to the Hospitality room, across from the Sheriff's Substation in the mall, by 10:00am 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!

## Remember ...

... when you sell plants at the MayFaire on the Club Plant Table, you keep the sales price minus 17¼%. 10% of the sales price goes to the Club and 7¼% goes for California sales tax.

## Random Notes from Your Editor ...

The Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire is rapidly approaching, and we would like to invite each and every member to participate in this spectacular event. We are not just whistling Dixie, here, or trying to hype something for brownie points. Many of our members, myself included, owe our introduction to the Society to attendance at one or another MayFaire. It is a great membership draw. In addition, it is the prime income producer for the Society, helping to keep our dues low and the value of our membership high. And, finally, it is a complete riot of color and beauty without compare, certainly here on the Peninsula. Participate, enjoy, be overwhelmed with the plants. I'll see you there.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those members who came to my March 17<sup>th</sup> lecture at the Crossroads. It was a pleasure to see you there!



*Photograph courtesy Carol Easton*



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