



# The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 6

June 2003

## MayFaire "A Great Success" : Jim Nybakken

At the May meeting of the Carmel Orchid Society, COS President Jim Nybakken said that the show, the major annual fundraising event, had been a great success. Generally, this means that the vendors were happy, the members sold lots of plants, and the Society took in a harvest of funds that will help us keep our dues low.

Ida Hale did her usual incredible organizational job, making sure that everything was done, everything flowed smoothly and all the volunteers were in the right place at the right time. This is quite an accomplishment, considering the size of the event and the number of people involved in making it happen. Bravo, Ida, and our deepest gratitude for your dedication, ability and expert handling of the event.

The hospitality crew were at their best again, this year, feeding volunteers and vendors alike with volumes of delicious food of all descriptions. In an interesting and new twist, Bill Hale was able to hand over some of his potting demonstration duties to Dan Orwick, whose expertise in caring for orchids shone in his confident and educational presentations. Bill was thus freed up to do more of his famous chef's work, to the benefit of

all who were hungry.

Once again, the mall between Safeway, the Fitness Center and KRML was filled with a profusion of color and fragrance as vendors from as far away as Hawaii came to present us with their best efforts. And excellent plants they were. As a security guard on the first morning, we watched as the early-birds snatched up the cymbidiums in the display closest to the Safeway entrance so quickly the vendor had to scramble to replenish her display ... and this was in the first five minutes.

We certainly hope that all the vendors had good results from the show. There were many familiar faces, growers who periodically entertain us with their wonderful and educational lectures, and some who come from far afield.

No description of the MayFaire would be complete without mention of the Big Display under the skylight. It was gorgeous!

Our members were also the recipients of a slew of blue ribbons and AOS awards. Some of the ribbon winners are pictured inside this issue of the *Backbulb*.

Thanks one and all!

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**Remember** — The **Annual Potluck Birthday Party** is **Monday, June 23**, at the **First Presbyterian Church**, our normal meeting place. This takes the place of the monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month. Please plan to attend.



# Brassia Culture

This is a genus of 29 species distributed throughout Tropical America. Most of the species are epiphytic in wet forests at elevations from sea level to 5000 feet.

Culture of brassias is similar to that of cattleyas but with little more shade and should not be allowed to dry out completely.

Most plants grow to about 2 feet tall; some with flowers that can stretch more than 18 inches from tip to bottom. The slender pointed sepals and petals of the flower resemble legs of a spider and the lip of the flower is shaped much like the spider's body, hence the Brassia is sometimes called the "Spider Orchid".

Crosses of Brassia with other genera help increase plant vigor and flower size. These intergeneric crosses also help the plants to grow in a wider range of temperature and also make them a more forgiving plant for beginners.

Some of the crosses are:

Miltassia = *Miltonia* x *Brassia*

Aliceara = *Brassia* x *Oncidium* x *Miltonia*

Brassidium = *Brassia* x *Oncidium*

**Temperature:** 55 to 60 F night; 80 to 85 F during the day. If temperatures rise into the 90's, increase humidity and air movement.

**Light:** A shadow should be detected when placing hand 10"-12" above plant. This is the quality of light required for at least 6 hours a day. **WATER:** Always water plant in the morning with tepid water. Watering should be thorough, and the medium should dry at least halfway through the pot before watering again. Frequency will depend on your climate, pot size and material (clay or plastic), and type of potting medium.

**Humidity:** 40-60%. If you do not have adequate humidity, place the plant above pebbles in saucer or tray filled with water making sure the pot is not sitting in the water.

**Fertilizer:** The easiest way to feed the orchid is to give it a weak solution (1//2 to 1/3 dilution) of fertilizer every time it is watered. Application of high nitrogen formulation (30-10-10) should be used in a bark-based medium. An even numbered formulation (20-20-20) should be used in other media or on slabs.

**Potting:** When the plant is outgrowing the pot or when the medium is breaking down and holding too much moisture (usually happens in 2 years) then it is time to repot. Potting should be done when new growth is about 4 inches tall. Use medium bark making sure the plant is positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing room for growth.



*Brassia gireoudiana*



Some Blue Ribbon Winners from the MayFaire



## COS Birthday Party June 23 Don't Miss It!

The June monthly meeting of the Carmel Orchid Society is traditionally replaced with the Annual Birthday Party Potluck. For our new members, and for those who have not yet attended a COS Birthday Potluck, it is quite a blowout, with everybody bringing their specialty dish, a real treat, as there are many expert chefs in our midst, not even counting the professionals.



body bringing their specialty dish, a real treat, as there are many expert chefs in our midst, not even counting the professionals.

In addition, there will be an extraordinary and lush plant table to be raffled off, so if you want to acquire some additional beautiful plants, now is the time to let it all hang out, and buy lots of tickets.

See you there!

## Treasurer's Report April, 2003



Checkbook Balance on April 1	<b>\$6,386.69</b>
April income	842.00
April expense	(307.28)
Checkbook Balance on April 30	<b>\$6,921.41</b>
CD balance on March 15 was <b>\$7,472.29</b>	

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

### June COS Birthday Party Potluck

Monday, June 23, 2003, at 7:30pm  
The First Presbyterian Church  
510 El Dorado Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

### Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 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 June Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2003 at 7:30pm  
At Ken and Sharon Ashton's home  
26966 Laureles Grade Road  
Carmel Valley, CA

### July COS Monthly Meeting

Monday, July 7, 2003, at 7:30pm  
The First Presbyterian Church  
510 El Dorado Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Speaker: Roberto Vasquez Chavez, Founder and President of the Botanical Society of Bolivia

### July COS Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, July 21, 2003, at 6:30pm  
Jim Nybakken's home  
151 Country Club Drive  
Carmel Valley, CA



COS President Jim Nybakken at the MayFaire

## QUI TO ORCHID SHOW & CONFERENCE

### Emphasis on Cloud and Rain Forest Species

With Alexander Hirtz, February 2004

Rain Forest, Galapagos & Peru extensions

Alexander Hirtz, world famous orchid discoverer, will host the Quito Orchid Show and Conference, February 5-8, 2004. It will be a major international Orchid event under the auspices of the Quito Orchid Society with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Latin American Orchid Congresses. There will be marvelous orchids from many parts of the world, with emphasis on South America. CITES and Phytosanitary Certificates will be available at the Show.

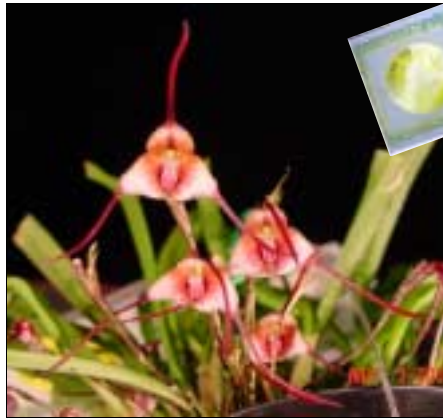
The conference will feature talks in English and in Spanish (with translations) by eighteen world-renowned orchid specialists. The Orchid Show will include exhibits from all over the globe. The event will begin with a cocktail reception and preview on Wednesday evening, February 4th, and continue for 4 days interspersed with lectures and events including: Andean dinner and show Friday evening, Saturday night dinner and show at the Quito Country Club, and closing ceremony and banquet on Sunday with music and entertainment at the Monastery of San Francisco. Entry fees range from \$40.00 for one day to \$310.00 for all events, with reduction for early registration (July 2003) and accompanying relative.

Health & Habitat, a California non-profit founded by Dr. Sandy Ross with her husband, Dr. Edward Ross, of the California Academy of Sciences, is a partner foundation to Alex Hirtz's Fundacion Tropica 2000 of Quito. Together they have a rainforest preserve and lodge (Cabanas Alinahui/Butterfly Lodge) in Ecuador's Amazon, which will be a post conference destination. Dr. Peter Raven of Missouri Botanical Garden, and Dr. E. O Wilson of Harvard consider this as one of the richest places in the world in terms of species diversity and endemism. There are a hundred orchid species in the area, over 1/3 of the South American birds are found there, and more than 800 species of butterflies.

Health & Habitat is putting together packages for people traveling from the USA, which will include a week in Quito, the Quito Orchid Show & Conference, and day excursion to the colorful Otovalo Indian Market. For those with more time, there is a three-day workshop at Ecuagenara in Cuenca on in-situ and ex-situ conservation, beginning on Monday, the 9th, which can be followed by one of several field excursions, including exploring Ecuador's magnificent cloud and rain forests. Extensions to the Galapagos and Peru are being arranged with Alex's company, Harmony Tours of Quito.

Tour price will depend on number of people who sign up and hotel chosen (some within walking distance to the show). Orchid Society chapters and individuals are encouraged to put together groups of 16 and get one person free. Health & Habitat is arranging special fares with American Airlines. US citizens receive visas on arrival; no malaria, yellow fever, or cholera are reported in tour areas; hepatitis protection advisable for any travel these days. Quito offers fine food of many cuisines, fascinating museums, friendly people, exotic shopping and much, much more.

**Contact Health & Habitat** ☎ 415-383-6130 ✉ [healthhab@igc.org](mailto:healthhab@igc.org)



*Dracula posadarum*  
*'Bette'*, Highly  
Commended,  
James Nybakken



*Milt. Patricia Anne*  
*'Max'*, Certificate of  
Cultural Merit, The  
Orchid House



*Dracula marsapialis* *'Bette'*,  
James Nybakken, Botani-  
cal Recognition

AOS Award Winners  
at the MayFaire



*Masd. Rise 'n' Shine*, Award  
of Merit, Marni Turkel



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