



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 7
July 2003

Our July Speaker: Bud Seagraves

Bud Seagraves (ezybud@aol.com) has a fascinating background, both in and out of the orchid world. Not only does he hold advanced degrees in physics, math and chemistry, he has spent over 25 years consulting to the nuclear power industry in the development of electrical steam power plant operator training simulations.

Bud's orchid experience also spans over 25 years, during which he has been growing across-the-spectrum orchids, both hybrids and species. He created Phalaenopsis crosses, stem propagation and seed germination, focusing mostly on yellow and dark pink Phals.

Bud purchased his first greenhouse from Lord and Burnham, a glass to ground design, 14'x23', humidity controlled, heated and cooled in 1979.

Bud's second greenhouse, homemade from building materials, was heated and cooled, with a fog machine and fans, 14'x24' in size. He also had two 10'x30' shade houses constructed of electrical conduit with shade cloth overlay.

His interest in orchids originated with a plant from his daughter. Bud's interest increased with time and he began to explore stem propagation, seed germination and *in vitro* cultivation. He also used his scientific training to create a greenhouse environment conducive to orchid culture, taking into account humidity methods to reduce plant fungal and bacterial damage. He used his steam power plant experience to manage water vapor characteristics



Phal. Taisuco Pixie

within the orchid plants' dynamic range. Summer humidity was controlled with fogging equipment and swamp coolers. Bud also explores other physical requirements for heating, lighting, shading and parameter measurements, using skills and background not normally available to the average orchidist.

This should be a riveting presentation. Please plan on attending.

In this month's Backbulb

- July Speaker: Bud Seagraves page 1
- Masdevallia Culture page 2
- Treasurer's Report page 3
- Membership application page 3
- Events Calendar page 4
- Greenhouse Tour Slated for September page 4
- Greenhouse Tour Signup Coupon page 4
- July Goodies Volunteers page 5
- A Note from Your Editor page 5
- Birthday Party "A Great Success" page 5
- Board of Directors page 6





Masdevallia Culture

Masdevallia is a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World Tropics. Masdevallias are best known for their showy flowers consisting of sepals fused into a tubelike structure. Their origins in cool, damp environments make them an excellent choice for cool or coastal climates. Most species and hybrids are compact enough so that they can be easily accommodated on windowsills or under lights.

LIGHT should be like that given for phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums -1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. Masdevallias can be kept in light intensities up to 2,500 • foot-candles if the growing area can be kept cool. Plants grow well under standard fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade. In the home, place in an east or shaded south window or under artificial lights.

TEMPERATURES should be cool to intermediate. The plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 55 to 60 F are ideal; day temperatures should be 65 to 75 F.

Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions. Avoid day temperatures higher than 80 F.

WATER is critical for these plants because they have minimal water-storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become almost dry before watering again; if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine. Good-quality water low in dissolved solids is imperative for success.

HUMIDITY is an important factor in the successful culture of masdevallias. The ideal range is 60 to 80 percent. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by

use of a humidifier, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended as is more-frequent soaking.

FERTILIZE regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10-type formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based medium. A 20-20-20-type formulation should be used for plants in other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient.

POTTING is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer arrives or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, before the potting mix decomposes. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or tree-fern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants• The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest from the edge of the container, allowing the maximum number



Masdevallia ignea

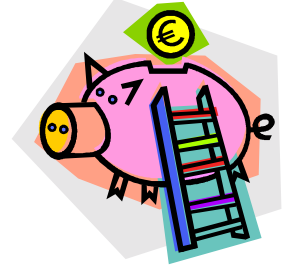
of new growths without crowding the vessel. Plants growing in many directions may be positioned in the center of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the plant. Firm the medium around the roots. Keep humidity high and the potting medium slightly dry until new roots form.

Culture sheet courtesy of the American Orchid Society, 6000 South Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida 33405-4199



Photographs courtesy Pat Landee

Treasurer's Report July, 2003



Checkbook Balance on May 1

\$6,929.41

May income

8,271.00

May expenses

(6,467.89)

Checkbook Balance on May 30

\$8,732.52

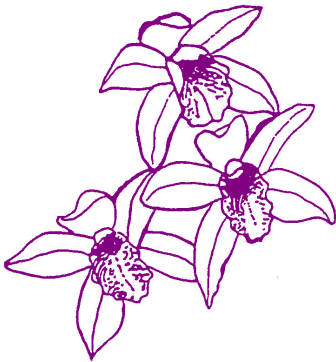
CD balance on May 15 was **\$7,481.20**

Please note: Vendors' dues are paid up until next May.

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



July Goodies Volunteers

Ellie Mamon, who does such a wonderful job managing the goodies for our meetings, tells me that our July Goodies Volunteers are:

Ida Hale
Deric Wenzler
Kazuko Mockett
Dan Orwick
Harold & Laverne Ragan

Meanwhile, a little bird told me that **Ellie Mamon** also did a phenomenal amount of work managing the feast at the COS Birthday Party on June 23. We are blessed to have such a reliable and skillful person using her talents for our benefit! I am really sorry that I missed it due to a prior obligation. There was more than enough food to feed an army, and it was delicious, so **thanks to all those wonderful members** who lovingly prepared and brought their special dishes.



COS Birthday Party June 23 "A Great Success"

To my great regret, I was unable to attend the Carmel Orchid Society Birthday Party on June 23, but I have heard great stories from those who did. The Board and members who organized and managed the event did a simply incredible job, not only in arranging the room, getting the food displayed and served, ushering people to their tables, and organizing the plant table, but did such a good job cleaning up the space

afterwards that it was actually cleaner than before the party! The table was laden with fresh salads, mouthwatering entrees, wrapped chicken, sliced ham, glazed ribs, and the chocolate birthday cake was a big hit.

In addition to the feast that was presented to the members, the plant table was replete with over 85 orchids of staggering variety and the kind of beauty that has addicted us to these plants in the first place. The plants came from Charles and Beatrice

Lee at Blossoming Orchids in Aromas and Matsui Nursery in Salinas. There were the usual suspects: oncidium, phalaenopsis, dendrobium, but there were also some lovely miniature cattleyas on the table. John Mockett did a land-office business in raffle tickets. Towards the end, two beautiful deep pink phalaenopsis were presented as thank you gifts, one to Sharon and Ken Ashton for organizing the Birthday Party and one to Ellie Mamon for all her hard work and effort helping with the refreshment table each month.

Success and hard work like this needs to be specifically recognized. In particular, special thanks go to Ken and Sharon Ashton, who organized the details of the party. We also want to recognize Ellie Mamon, Jeff and Carolyn Salmon, and Bill and Ida Hale for their Herculean efforts to make this event a memorable one. And, of course, kudos to the great chefs who prepared the variety and volume of food. Bravo, one and all.

And, while we're handing out praise and gratitude to those who make the Carmel Orchid Society a great organization to belong to, we know our members noticed what an incredibly beautiful, clean and professional job Pat Landee and Jud Grubbs did on our roster. All the information that we need to contact each other, the bylaws, the schedule of events, they're all in there, in a readable, clear and pleasant format.

Thanks to one and all!

A Note from Your Editor

I would like to apologize for the tardiness of this month's *Backbulb*, and take full responsibility for it. I have been deluged with work in the past few weeks, preparing for presentations in Lodi, Monterey, Bangkok and Singapore, and becoming embroiled in foiling a hostile takeover at an organization near and dear to my heart. I wish to emphasize that none of the other participants in the *Backbulb's* production are at fault, only myself. Please accept my apologies, and my sincere hope that no one was inconvenienced by my lateness. Thanks for your patience.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge Shirley West and Ida Hale for reporting on the Birthday Party, which I missed. — Ed.



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