



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 46, Number 9
September 2003

Our October Speaker: Dr. Gerardus Staal

Gerardus Staal of Peninsula Hybrids in Palo Alto is a retired entomologist, who in his first career, worked on the development of novel insect control agents such as Enstar (kinoprene, for whiteflies), Mavrik (fluvalinate, for many insects and mites), Altosid (methoprene, for mosquitos and flies) and Precor (hydroprene, for cockroaches). The orchid bug bit around 1975 and resulted in a second career in the growing, propagation, and hybridization of rare orchid species. The specialization soon shifted to cooler growing orchids, especially Pleurothallids, Odonts, Maxillarias, Epidendrums, Dendrobiums and lately Bulbophyllums.



The introduction of many rare species has resulted in Certificates of Botanical Recognition being awarded from the American Orchid Society. The hybridization work has led to many other awards, including two Awards of Quality, Masdevallia Southern Sun and Masdevallia Mario Ferrusi, and several Awards of Distinction for Staalara Gerardus, Baptirettia Royal Marble, Epidendrum Playtime, and Porrovalia Phil Jesup .

Gerardus has also been involved in several local orchid societies, serving as President for five years, and has been a member of the AOS Research Committee and is a past President of the Pleurothallid Alliance.

In This Month's Backbulb

September Speaker: Dr. Gerardus Staal	Page 1
Maxillaria Culture	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Membership application	Page 3
Events Calendar	Page 4
October Goodies Volunteers	Page 5
2003 Greenhouse Tour Reminder	Page 5
Senor Roberto Vasquez July Lecture	Page 5



Christmas Dinner is Set!



Mark your calendars to be at the
Monterey Beach Hotel,
December 14th, Member Admission \$25.00.



Pat Landee



Maxillaria Culture

Besides *Oncidium*, species and hybrids of the following genera are considered to be members of the Oncidium Alliance: *Aspasia*, *Brassia*, *Gomesa*, *Maxillaria*, *Miltonia*, *Ornithocephalus*, *Psychopsis*, *Psychomorphis*, *Rodriguezia*, *Tolumnia*, and *Zygopetalum*. Extensive hybridizing among members of the Alliance has produced a number of man made genera.

LIGHT — Oncidium Alliance genera grow well in moderate (Cattleya) light intensity. Morning sun is best, until about noon. Observation of the leaf structure can be your best guide to the correct light conditions for which a type is particularly suited. The terete (ie: “rat-tail” oncidiums *Onc. ascedens*), or the heavy, fleshy “mule-ears” (*Onc. luridum*) will tolerate a lot more sun than the ribbony, grass like foliage (*Onc. flexuosum*). Lime green colored foliage is an indication of proper light. Dark green foliage, while very attractive, is not conducive to the plant reaching it's full blooming potential. Yellow colored foliage indicates too much light. The “mule-ears” Oncidiums will develop a purplish tint to their leaves in higher light, instead of the lime green coloring. The purplish tint indicates proper lighting for these types. Most members of this alliance can be successfully grown, and flowered, under lights. In very mild climates, most members of this alliance can be grown out of doors, with protection from the hot summer sun, and the colder nights of winter.

TEMPERATURE — The ideal annual temperature range for most members of the Oncidium Alliance are 75°-85°F. (24°-30° Celsius) during the day and 55°-60°F. (13°-16° Celsius) at night.

Plants will tolerate temperatures to 45°F (10° Celsius) and up to 100°F (38° Celsius) for short periods. At higher temperatures, air circulation and humidity must be increased or damage can occur

WATER — Oncidium Alliance enjoy frequent watering during their growing period, but will not tolerate wet feet for extended periods. However, when growth is completed, a two or three week rest period should follow to allow the growths to mature. Generally speaking, the growing season extends from March to October. The frequency of watering is relative to the container, the temperature, air circulation, and the amount of water retained in medium in the container. Watering should be done so the roots are approaching dryness before rewatering. In the warmer periods, several waterings a week can be done, without worry, if the roots can dry quickly. The roots are sensitive to fertilizer salt build up, so clear water flushes are necessary for good growth.

FERTILIZER — Oncidium Alliance plants should be fed consistently, when in full growth. During the Spring through early Fall, fertilizing every seven days, with several clear waterings in

between, will make your Oncidium Alliance plants happy. In the late Fall through Winter, a light feeding once a month will suffice.

The fertilizer formula should match the potting medium. Use 20-10-20 with tree fern, charcoal, or various inorganic aggregates, but use 30-10-10 with fir bark. We recommend non-urea based fertilizers at half strength. Non urea fertilizers provide 100% immediately available nitrogen, which urea based fertilizers do not. We recommend Grow Mor fertilizers, which also have micro nutrients, to provide strength for the new growth, as well as support for the flowers.

Whichever formula is selected, we recommend half strength at each application. As with most Orchids, Oncidium roots are sensitive to fertilizer salt build up. Oncidiums are particularly fond of organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion and manure teas. The organic fertilizers eliminate concern of salt build up in the medium.

POTTING — Oncidium Alliance do not resent being disturbed, so re potting should be undertaken whenever necessary. The best time is after all flowering has ceased and new growth is just beginning. To minimize root damage, a warm water soak for 10 minutes will make most roots very pliable and easier to remove from the container.

While most oncidiums will do well in clay or plastic pots, some large-growing types such as *altissimum*, *sphacelatum* are

best grown in a wire or wooden basket. The baskets allow free air flow over the roots, and eliminate over watering problems. Others, such as the equitant (now *Tolumnia*) type species and hybrids, and the “rat-tail” *oncidiums*, may be successfully grown on cork bark or tree fern plaques. The equitant also grow well in small clay pot, with out any medium.

The potting medium must be well-drained, i.e. coarse fir bark, lava rock, pieces of broken pottery, chunks of tree fern, hardwood charcoal, etc. so that the roots can be wet, but then dry quickly.

When dividing Oncidium Alliance plants, always divide into parts with four pseudobulbs. Remove any dead roots from the divisions, then lay the divisions aside until new root growth begins. At that time, usually a week or so, repot the divisions in their new pots. Now the plants can be watered and fertilized as usual without worrying about rotting them, because they retained no roots in the division. Newly repotted plants should be placed in slightly lower light for several weeks.



Max. tenuifolia (Coconut Orchid)
Photograph by P. Landee



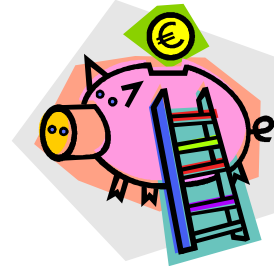
Mtdm. Bartley Schwarz. Highland



Milt. Lady Snowx Lorene

Photographs courtesy Pat Landee

Treasurer's Report July, 2003



Checkbook Balance on July 1	\$6,960.93
July income	281.67
July expenses	(807.76)
Checkbook Balance on July 31	\$6,434.84

CD balance on July 15 was **\$7,499.34**

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, 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 **\$ 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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Member of the
American Orchid Society?
Yes No

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 6, 2003, at 7:30pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Dr. Gerardus of Peninsula Hybrids in Palo Alto, CA.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 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 August Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2003 at 7:30pm
Susan Segal
See Roster for address.

Carmel Orchid Society

Annual Greenhouse Tour

Sunday, September 21, 2003
Meeting at 8:15am at the K-Mart shopping center parking lot, Highway 1 and Canyon Del Rey, Seaside.



Cattleya

Society Bylaws To Be Updated

Jim Nybakken wants all members to know that the Board is considering updating the Bylaws. The current bylaws are in the Society Roster starting on page 19.

The modifications will be presented at the October meeting, and will be voted on at the November meeting.



MayFaire Blue Ribbon Cym. Sleeping Dawn - Evelyn Russo

Pat Landee Gives Orchids 101 Class to the Friends and Flowers of the Del Monte Forest

Pat presented a class on Orchids to 25 members of the Friends and Flowers of Del Monte Forest (also known as the Pebble Beach Garden Club when Clint can't hear.) The one hour presentation covered:

What is an Orchid?

Two Types of Growth.

Where They Grow.

History.

Growing.

Repotting Demonstration (Bill Hale would be proud!)

A pitch was made for the Society, and hopefully new members.



October Goodies Vol unteers

Ellie Mamon, our hardworking and infinitely reliable Hospitality Manager, tells me that our October Goodies Volunteers are:

Cely Cruz
Gerda Chavez
Carolyn Lake
Diane Segelbacher
Lori Siegmund

Our wonderful members who bring the goodies have consistently outdone themselves, and it is almost fair to wonder if there is some kind of competition among the Volunteers to see who can tickle our taste buds the most elaborately! Whatever the cause, we all thank the excellent chefs among us who delight us so!



Senor Roberto Vasquez Talks on the Orchids of Bolivia

By Pat Lintel I

Senor Roberto Vasquez Chavez is Head of the Horticulture Society in Bolivia. He is not a grower – but a collector. After collecting the orchids, he draws, photographs, preserves (both dry and in alcohol) and catalogues them. He then donates the specimens to the Bolivian government for recording.

As explained, Bolivia is centrally located in South America. From the high Andes (12,000 ft) to the lowlands (sea level), rainforests to deserts, forests and valleys. Due to the variety of natural habitats, Bolivia has 1,500 species of orchids, possibly 2,000. Each area has a unique variety – the rain forests have lots of fog, cold, wind, and daily

rains. Each valley has a unique species as well as does each of the habitats.

His slides covered the spectrum of locations within Bolivia, showing beautiful and unusual blossoms from each of the many areas. Some were growing in trees, others on the ground.

The Members of the Carmel Orchid Society enjoyed the beautiful and bountiful slides and were most appreciative of Senor Vasquez' presentation. We were privileged to be among the 3 cities to be fortunate enough to be on his schedule.

Senor Vasquez has co-authored 4 volumes of 'Orchids of Bolivia'. The first is available, volume 2 to be published in the near future.

September 2003 Greenhouse Tour Reminder!

If you are going on the Greenhouse Tour, the bus departs the K-Mart parking lot promptly at 8:30 am and you should be there not later than 8:15 am. If you have not signed up, send your \$25.00 to Tom Bremser, 306 Crocker Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

THE BUS WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATE ARRIVALS!

Bring your own lunch and a blanket or folding chair. Drinks will be provided by the Society.

If you are providing your own transportation there will be a \$10.00 charge.



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