



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 3
March 2004

March Speakers:

Jim Nybakken and Susan Segal

COS President Jim Nybakken and Vice President Susan Segal will be speaking on their recent trip to Ecuador where they attended a big orchid conference. The conference was primarily a show and speakers as opposed to a major buying event and featured speakers from all over the world. After the four day conference, they went on a day trip to the nearby cloud forest to look at the orchids in the wild and a private reserve where orchids are being re-introduced.



several large tracts of land in that area to repopulate native plants, so Jim and Susan were able to see some of what Ecuagenera are doing to save that wonderful and rapidly shrinking habitat.

Susan told us, “I learned more about orchids on this trip than I thought possible – after growing for fewer than four years. It’s amazing to be in a place where orchids just grow wild (along with hundreds of species of ferns, bromeliads, palms, etc).”

Jim Nybakken, a marine biologist by profession, has served in many capacities with the COS, including his current stint as President. He, Bill and Ida Hale own Bakkehale Orchids in Carmel Valley.

After that excursion, the intrepid travelers flew to Cuenca, Ecuador, where they visited Ecuagenera, the largest species grower in South America, and were able to purchase plants and visit the nearby cloud forest. Ecuagenera has purchased

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March Meeting Potting Demonstration

Don’t Forget . . . Bill Hale will be doing a potting demonstration immediately before the March monthly meeting. Plan on getting to the meeting about half an hour early, as Bill’s demonstrations are always informative and engaging.



Masdevallia & Dracula Culture

Masdevallia, a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World tropics, is known for its showy flowers with sepals striking in their size, shape, and/or color. Their need for a cool, damp environment makes them an excellent choice for cool, coastal climates.

LIGHT levels for this group usually are thought of as fairly low; however, some successful growers believe that the best flowerings are produced under higher light levels. Plants can be grown, but not necessarily flowered, in the same light levels as those for ferns -- 400 to 1,000 foot-candles. Most growers maintain levels adequate for Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum --

1000 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 four-tube fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade.

TEMPERATURES should be cool to intermediate; plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods of time. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 50 to 55 degrees F are ideal; day temperatures should be 60 to 75 degrees F. Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions.

WATER is critical for these plants because they have minimal water storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become just dry before watering again if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine.

HUMIDITY is important for these plants. The ideal range is 60% to 80%. In the home, mist the plants (in the morning only) and set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by misting or wetting down the floors, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended.

FERTILIZER should be applied regularly 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 dull, applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high phosphorus, 10-30-20 type formulation (bloom booster) as plants approach flowering.

POTTING is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer and/or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, to keep the potting mix from decomposing. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or treefern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants. The bottom one quarter to one third of the pot should be filled with drainage material, either broken crock, rocks or Styrofoam "peanuts." The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the pot. 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 by applying pressure. Keep humidity high and the potting medium slightly dry until new roots form. A vitamin B1 compound may help establish newly potted plants.

Prepared by: Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.



Photographs courtesy Ida Hale

Treasurer's Report, January, 2003



Checkbook Balance on December 31	\$3,233.49
January income	410.00
January expenses	(395.00)
Checkbook Balance on January 31	\$3,248.49
CD balance on January 15 th was	\$7,554.33

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 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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Member of the
American Orchid Society?
Yes No

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Monday, March 1, 2003, at 7:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Speaker: Jim Nybakken and Susan Segal on their trip to Ecuador.

Bill Hale will do a **masdevallia potting demonstration** before the meeting.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 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 March Board of Directors' Meeting Monday, March 15, 2004 at 7:30pm

At Ken and Sharon Ashton's home, 26966 Laureles Grade Road, Carmel Valley. 659 7387.

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show March 19-21, 2004

Earl Warren Fairgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA
For more information: 1095 N. Patterson Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111.

Tel: (805) 967 6331

Carmel Orchid Society Annual May Faire Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2, All Day Event

At **The Crossroads Shopping Center** covered mall between Safeway and Long's Drug Store. Our major annual fundraising event, make sure that you sign up to volunteer for this fun and dazzling event. (See articles this issue.)

Annual MayFaire 2004 on the Horizon

The Carmel Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show and Sale will be held on May 1st and 2nd at the Crossroads Shopping Mall. Ida Hale is the Chairperson for the event and is assisted by a busy committee. Our Orchid Show has become a tradition in our community and attracts several thousand visitors. It is an important time for members to participate in a variety of ways – displaying your prize orchids, preparing food for the vendors, working the COS sales table, hosting our visitors and, of course, helping in setting up and **cleaning up!** We will be asking for volunteers from the society to staff the May Faire at our March and April meetings. If you would like to volunteer, please attend the meetings and sign up. If you cannot attend one of the meetings but would like to volunteer, please call Ida at 646-8724.

We have 23 vendors signed up to participate in the MayFaire, a record number. The vendor booths were quickly filled after sending out the announcements. Our show has become one of the most popular with the vendors. However, you, our volunteers make the entire event possible. It takes about sixty volunteers beginning with the Friday, April 30th setup, to make the show a success. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up tables, drapes and displays on Friday beginning at noon. During the show, we need volunteers for four hour shifts to assist in the hospitality room and selling orchids on the COS sales table. We need lunch treats – salads, sandwiches, casseroles, desserts or your specialty will be gratefully accepted. The vendors and volunteers always appreciate the wonderful lunches that are provided during the show. Sunday May 2nd at 4:00pm we **need as much help as possible.** We have to break down the tables, displays and cleanup the mall. Volunteers need to start after the vendors take their plants off and not before – so please be patient. We hope you will plan on assisting during the MayFaire. Your participation makes this event a success for the Carmel Orchid Society, besides it is **FUN** and you become more acquainted with your fellow Orchid Society members.

Have You Paid Your 2004 COS Dues Yet?

COS Annual Membership dues became ... uh ... *due* on January 1, 2004. If you have not yet paid, please send your payment now to Shirley West at the COS address on the last page of your *Backbulb*. Thanks!

Trouble Getting your Backbulb?

Some members have reported difficulty in getting their *Backbulb* off the Internet, others have not received theirs in the mail. If you are experiencing trouble with your *Backbulb*, please contact Pat Landee and Jud Grubbs at patlandee@groundspace.com, or by telephone at (831) 655-9729. They will straighten it out as quickly as they possibly can.



March Goodies Volunteers

Our faithful **Ellie Mamon**, whose arm we all hope gets better very soon, tells me that the following people have volunteered to bring refreshments in March:

Susan Phillips
Evelyne Anzini
Lupe Rubio
Frances Richardson
Linda Beard



Thanks again to our generous February providers, **Cely Cruz, Kathy Apodaca, Imogene Speiser, Ken Thomas and Kathy Scott** who brought treats to our last meeting. If the treats get any better, I will have to tape my mouth shut!

If you haven't brought any treats in a while, please take a moment and sign up on Ellie's next sign-up sheet when it comes around. The members all appreciate it! Thanks.

Bill Hale's February Presentation

Bill Hale's presentation at the February meeting was noteworthy for many reasons: the cattleya potting demonstration, the beautiful slides, the orchid growing tips. But, for me, at least one mystery was cleared up satisfactorily. I have always wondered how Bill manages to grow these often difficult plants with such consistent success. **NOW WE KNOW!** Bill talks to his orchids ... *and listens when they talk back!*

Some of the gems we collected at the meeting:

Put the tops of the roots level with the top of the bark. Don't bury the plant—it will rot.

Don't pack the roots too tight. Roots need air. "Finger tight" only.

Sterilize your tools with a torch or 20% bleach solution between plants to help prevent the spread of disease.

Avoid splinters in your bark mixture. Wood splinters will rot faster. Floating the bark helps to separate bark from splinters: leave what drops to the bottom.

MayFaire 2004: 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 meeting. Bill Hale, our past President and the 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 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!

Annual Bakkehal e Orchid Sale—A "Do Not Miss" Event

Bakkehale Orchids (Jim Nybakken, Bill and Ida Hale) will be holding their annual orchid clearance sale March 13 starting at 9:00am at 241 Lerwick Drive, Monterey, near the Fairgrounds. For those of you who have not attended one of these events, you have to get there early, as the best items, and there are many, tend to go first, and quickly. If you would like to acquire one of the robust, colorful and dramatic plants that Bill and Ida bring to our monthly meetings, now is the time. And they will make you a really good price, too. Plan on attending!

Get Well Soon!

The Board and members of the COS would like to wish Don Drummond a speedy recovery. Get well soon, Don!



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P. O. Box 2454
Monterey, CA 93942
www.carmelorchidsociety.org

(831) 646 8724



Carmel Orchid Society

President	James Nybakken	659-4060	bnybakken@redshift.com
VP Program/Education	Susan Segal	375-5897	susansegal@attbi.com
Secretary	Kathy Apodaca	392-1558	
Treasurer	Shirley West	620-1001	spwest25@earthlink.net
<i>Backbulb</i> Editor	Howard Straus	625-3565	hdstraus@earthlink.net
May Faire Chairman	Ida Hale	646-8724	imaryhale@aol.com
Directors	Carolyn Salmon	375-3748	cargie@yahoo.com
	Danny Orwick	424-1886	
	Ken Ashton	659-7387	ashcas@email.msn.com
	Sharon Ashton	659 7387	ashcas@email.msn.com
	Carol Easton	625-1565	eastonce@aol.com
Hospitality	Ellie Mamon	883-8533	
AOS Representative	Carolyn Salmon	375-3748	cargie@yahoo.com
Hospice Cymbidiums	Peggy Purchase	624-8442	pegpaule@redshift.com
Ticket Sales	John Mockett	624-9596	
Past President	William G. Hale	646-8724	bakkehalleorchids@aol.com