



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 5
May 2004

Our May Speaker: Marni Turkel

Marni Turkel has been attending our MayFaires for about ten years now, but has only taken up speaking relatively recently, in the past couple of years. She is a fine potter, and you may well recall her fine ceramic pots and crockery at her Stony Point Ceramics stall at past Faires.

Marni has long been a grower of pleurothallis, and has been an active member of the pleurothallis alliance of the San Francisco Bay Area. The "chapter" is a broad subgroup of the national alliance, and has always been one of the most active of all regional divisions. To really classify the group as being a "bay area" group belies its true scope, ranging from Santa Rosa to Monterey, perhaps beyond.

As well as being an active member

of an active alliance, Marni has served as ad hoc "chairman" of the group in San Francisco.

Marni's opinions and expertise on orchids are evident in her regular column in the journal of the American Orchid Society, *Orchids*. It has only



AOS awarded masdevallia

been in the past two or three years that Marni has taken up the speaker's podium, and we have every confidence that she will be as successful and effective at that endeavor as she has been at galvanizing her pleurothallis group.

We are looking forward to a lively evening the day after the closing of our MayFaire. Please come and welcome our

guest!

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Call for Blooming Plants

We would like to appeal to all our members to bring your blooming orchids to the MayFaire for showing as part of the "Big Display" at the center-

piece of the mall. Even if you have one quality plant in bloom, we are requesting you to help make the Big Display as spectacular as possible. It is one of the most impressive items at the MayFaire, demonstrating both the beauty and variety of these endlessly fascinating plants.



Mil tonia/Mil toniopsis Cul ture

These striking orchids, which are also known as pansy orchids, owing to their similarity to garden pansies, are enjoying increasing popularity. *Milto-niopsis* are cool-growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Panama and Ecuador. The warmer-growing species, properly miltonias, originate from the Minas Gerais area of Brazil and more closely resemble large-flowered oncidiums. Their flowers can be brilliantly patterned.

LIGHT should be relatively shaded. Direct sunlight burns the thin leaves within a short period of time. However, the warmer- growing types prefer more light than their cooler-growing relatives. The cool-growing species need approximately 1,200 foot- candles, while the warmer-growing species require closer to 2,000 foot-candles.

TEMPERATURE is critical for the cooler-growing plants. Unless temperatures are kept under 80 F, they may not flower. The minimum temperature is 50 to 55 F. Thus, these are really better thought of as intermediate growers because they need intermediate temperatures throughout the year - not too hot, not too cold. The warmer growers will take temperatures over 90 F as long as humidity levels of 70 to 75 percent, or higher, are maintained. The minimum temperature is 60 F.

WATER must be plentiful and the medium must drain perfectly. In their native habitat, the plants are drenched almost daily and, because of this, they are intolerant of salt buildup, so leaching every fourth or fifth watering is important when growing in pots. When they are not getting enough water or humidity, the leaves have a tendency to grow with accordion-like pleats. The warmer-growing miltonias should be grown like cattleyas;

allow them to approach dryness between waterings. They also tend to be slightly more tolerant of salt buildup than their Colombian cousins so they can dry more between waterings.

HUMIDITY must be at least 70 percent because of the plants' need for abundant water. Less humidity will stress the plants and can lead to susceptibility to disease, though too much humidity is worse than too little.

FERTILIZE at the same level as other orchids: half-strength, balanced fertilizer every two weeks. This can be reduced by half during overcast weather or in winter. A 10-30-20 blossom-booster

formulation is beneficial in early spring when plants approach their flowering period. **POTTING** should be done after flowering when the new growth is starting. *Miltoniopsis* should be repotted every year as they are intolerant of stale conditions. The cool growers (*miltoniopsis*) do well in small pots. The warmer growers (*miltonias*) tend to have a relatively elongated creeping habit



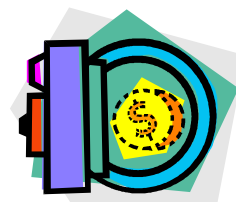
Miltonia from 2003 MayFaire: AOS Award

and, therefore, do better mounted. Any potting mix suitable for fine roots such as 70 percent seedling bark with charcoal and perlite or a mix of 70 percent tree fern and 30 percent chopped sphagnum is adequate. Mounts may be cork, tree fern or other hard wood. They should be longer than wide. For some reason, shallow pans work better than deep pots.



Images courtesy Pat Landee

Treasurer's Report March, 2004



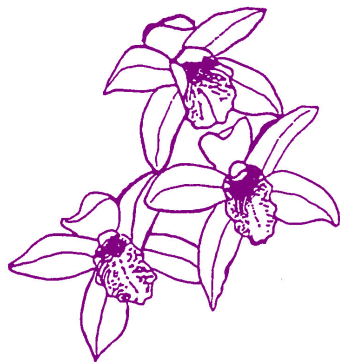
Checkbook Balance on March 1	\$7,056.76
February income	504.00
February expense	(684.50)
Checkbook Balance on March 31	\$7,056.76

CD balance on March 15 was **\$7,569.94**

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 MayFaire

Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2, 2004, 9am-4:30pm

The Crossroads Shopping Center Mall
Between Safeway and Long's Drugs
Rio Road and Highway 1, Carmel, CA

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2004, at 7:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Marni Turkel. See article on p. 1.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2004, 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 May Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, May 17, 2004 at 7:30pm

At Carolyn and Jeff Salmon's home, 1520 David Ave., Pacific Grove, CA.

June COS Birthday Party Potluck

Monday, June 7, 2004 at 6:00pm ("cocktails"), 7:00pm (potluck dinner).

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

Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair

July 9-11, 2004 at the Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93105-3285



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.

If you signed up to bring food at a prior COS meeting, please honor your pledge. If you didn't sign up to bring something, remember, that should not keep you from doing so anyway! Bill Hale, our past President and the Hospitality Chairperson will be pleased to hear from you if you have something special to contribute or were 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!

Put in Your Vote for the Greenhouse Tour: Local or Road Trip?

For years, the COS has alternated between local and road trip Greenhouse Tours, but in a departure from rigidity, the Board has decided to ask COS members to vote on which they would prefer. If you enjoy the bus atmosphere, wine on the way back, no confusion, tell us. If you would prefer to tour and visit your fellow COS members and see their greenhouses, perhaps be inspired to acquire your own, let us know. COS President Jim Nybakken has offered to host a barbecue if a local tour is selected.

Please email Jim Nybakken (bnybakken@redshift.com) with your preferences.



April Goodies Volunteers

Our most grateful tastebuds thank our creative and generous March volunteers, **Kazuko and John Mockett, Carolyn Salmon, Gerda Chavez, Joyce Eleska and Ellie Mamon** for their superlative efforts. In April, our beloved, faithful and reliable **Ellie Mamon** did double duty, not only bringing a dish, but preparing and presenting the treats as soon as the speaker was finished. Thanks, one and all.

Our May Goodies Volunteers are:

The' Jongens

Janette Ford

Susan Jones

Rose Cunningham

Dale Wire



Selling Orchids at the MayFaire 2004

Members of the Carmel Orchids Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. Plants which are presented for sale **must be disease and pest-free** and attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself... *Would I buy this plant?*

Peggy Purchase is in charge of the Plant Table again this year and asked for us to remind members.....

1. **Fill out the sales tag** as completely as possible. A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.
2. **Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot.** This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them and creates problems in reading the tags.

3. **Bring the plants on Friday afternoon between 12noon and 5pm.** There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received. Plants may also be brought in on Saturday or Sunday morning just before **8:00am** and shall be put on display as sales space is available. Plants brought in on Saturday must be clean and mossed, as there will be no time to do it then.

4. **Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30pm on Sunday** or they will be discarded or donated. The Society can not be responsible for plants not picked up at the designated time.

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references – pedigree – are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted.

A portion of each sale goes to COS and is one of our primary fund-raisers during the year. If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up or **call Peggy at 624-8442**. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member when you bring them in.



Images from MayFaire 2003, courtesy Pat Landee.

Bill Hale (above) potting, Ida Hale (right) organizing, and Jim Nybakken (below) winning.



Volunteers, Food ...

If you volunteered for any of the duties during the MayFaire, please make it a point to show up for your shift. We realize, also, that there are people who didn't get a chance to sign up, but who show up anyway ... we are grateful for any and all help.

If you can, please bring some food for the hospitality room, the vendors are always grateful for our generosity.



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Carmel Orchid Society

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