



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 6
June 2004

MayFaire Successful Due to Member Efforts

The 2004 Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire has now come and gone, a successful and productive show for the COS. As our members know, the MayFaire is our premier fundraising event during the year, and saves us from having to hold innumerable and far less spectacular bake sales and car washes to sustain our budgetary needs all during the year.

Once again, the vendors were highly complimentary about the quality and quantity of food they were offered, and the hospitality of our members. They really enjoy the way they are treated, and for the most part enjoyed good sales of their wares during the weekend.

It was an interesting weekend, too. Our competition for customers and traffic was out in force during the Faire. Local plant shows, flower shows, abounded up and down the Peninsula, good for plant lovers, not so

good for our show, which did suffer a noticeable, though not disastrous, drop in attendance.

Complicating the picture and reducing traffic further is the fact that the Crossroads Center is well along in the planning of a total remodeling of the facility, and has begun by moving all the tenants out of the mall where the Faire is held. This reduces it to a hall, rather than a shopping area where many people come who would otherwise not show up for orchids, but who are nonetheless captivated by these exotic and beautiful plants, displayed so expertly by over two dozen expert vendors.

Despite the difficulties, there was good attendance, and the vendors generally left happy, as did the attendees, some of whom commented to us that the displays were "spectacular" (I had to agree), and the show a vital part of the pleasure of living on and visiting the Monterey Peninsula.

In this month's Backbulb

- MayFaire Success page 1
- Greenhouse Tour page 1
- Oncidium Culture page 2
- Treasurer's Report page 3
- Membership application page 3
- Events Calendar page 4
- Images from 2004 MayFaire page 4
- Kudos to Ida Hale and Crew page 5
- May Goodies Thank You page 5
- BB Editor's Film Honored page 5
- Board of Directors page 6

Greenhouse Tour Results Are in: Road Trip

The results of the preferences submitted to Jim Nybakken are in, and the majority of the respondents requested a Bus Trip. So, in September, we will be headed off to some exotic location to tour some lovely greenhouses and acquire some *more* plants (could we *really* ever have enough orchids?).

Carol Easton will be in charge, and those of you who have had experience with her know that she always does a bang-up job of it. Get ready to sign up for the tour in the next *Backbulb*.



Photograph courtesy Ida Hale



Oncidium Culture

This varied group of orchids includes plants from many types of environments. Some come from hot and dry areas, while others grow in less severe conditions. More specific instructions may be available from the grower. Some genera included are *Aspasia*, *Brassia*, warm-growing oncidiums and *miltonias* (often called the Brazilian-type), and many of their hybrids.

LIGHT can be from just bright to almost full direct sun depending on the plant. Most will thrive with one to several hours of sun a day. Generally thicker-leaved plants can stand more light, such as "mule-ear" and "equitant" oncidiums. In the home, east, south or west windows are ideal. Many types will grow under artificial light: four fluorescent tubes 6 to 12 inches over the plants are necessary for proper growth. Metal-halide and sodium-vapor bulbs also provide sufficient light without needing to be so close to the plant. In a greenhouse, 20% to 60% shade is required, or about 2,000 to 6,000 foot-candles, depending on the plants grown.

TEMPERATURES for this group are generally called intermediate to warm: 55 to 60 degrees F at night, and 80 to 85 degrees F during the day. Temperatures to 95 to 100 degrees F are tolerated if humidity and air movement are increased as the temperature increases.

WATER requirements vary with the type of plant. Generally, plants with large fleshy roots and/or leaves need less frequent watering than thin-leaved and/or thin-rooted plants. Watering should be thorough, and plants should dry at least halfway through the pot before watering again. This may be every 2 to 10 days depending on weather, pot size and material, type of orchid and type of potting medium. Plants not actively growing, should be watered less; many species have winter rest periods.

HUMIDITY should be between 30% and 60%. Most of these orchids require less humidity than some other orchids. In the home, placing the plants

on trays above moist pebbles is ideal. Misting the plants in the morning may help increase humidity but is usually not recommended for fleshy-leaved types. Most greenhouses have adequate humidity.

FERTILIZER should be applied regularly while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10 formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based potting medium. A 20-20-20 formulation should be used on other media or on slabs. If skies are cloudy, applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high-phosphorus, 10-30-20 formulation bloom booster as plants approach blooming.

REPOT when new growth begins from the base of the plant, which is usually in the spring. A fine-grade potting medium is usually used with fine-rooted plants and coarser mixes with large-rooted plants; the standard size is medium-grade. Usually the lowest one-



Photograph courtesy Ida Hale

quarter to one-third of the pot is filled with drainage material, either crock shards, rocks, or Styrofoam "peanuts". The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth(s) are farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growth before crowding the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in

around the roots. Firm the medium well around the roots by applying pressure. Keep humidity high and the pot dry until new roots form. A vitamin B1 compound may help establish newly potted plants.

"Equitant" and "mule-ear" oncidiums, as well as other fleshy-leaved and/or large rooted plants, can be grown on slabs of cork bark or treefern or in pots of a coarse, well-drained medium such as charcoal.

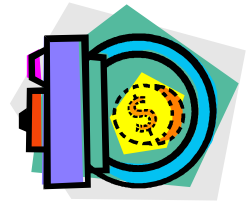
Courtesy of: Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.



Photographs courtesy Ida Hale



Treasurer's Report April, 2004



Checkbook Balance on April 1	\$6,876.26
April income	2,090.00
April expense	(1382.81)
Checkbook Balance on April 30	\$7,583.45

CD balance on April 15 was **\$7,576.69**

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 _____

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

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

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at 6:30pm (second
Tuesday of every month)

At the Community Bank, Community Room,
6th Floor, 301 Main Street, Salinas, CA. En-
trance on Alisal. For more information, call
(408) 375 6871.

Carmel Orchid Society June Board of Direc- tors' Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2004 at 7:30pm

At Susan Segal's home, 1425 Deer Flat Road,
Monterey, CA 93940

Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair

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

Upcoming speakers:

July: Paul Chim of May On Orchids. Subject
will be Fragrant Asian Cymbidiums

August: Susan Fordice of Fordice Orchids in
Livermore, a COS member, will speak on mini-
cattleyas.

Images from MayFaire 2004



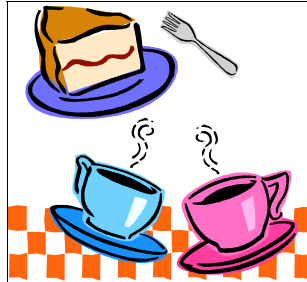
Photographs courtesy Ida Hale



Thank You to our May Goodies Volunteers

We should like to extend a grateful and deserved Thank You to our May volunteers, **The' Jongens, Janette Ford, Susan Jones, Rose Cunningham and Dale Wire**, who tickled our tastebuds shamelessly with yummy refreshments at the May monthly COS meeting. We tip our hat, as always, to our constant and hardworking Ellie Mamon, who prepares the goodies so beautifully.

We also need to remind our members that there are no "goodies" *per se* in June, since it will be our annual COS Birthday party potluck dinner. We'll be back asking for contributions for July, though, so don't put those baking utensils away for good!



Kudos to Ida Hale and Crew

Many of our Board of Directors and members contributed time, effort, orchids, transportation, resources, blood, sweat and tears to the success of the MayFaire this year, and to them go special thanks for the excellent and smooth running of the event. But there is always the one person who takes it as a personal responsibility to see that everything goes perfectly.

This year, as in so many years past, that incredibly responsible, hard-working person was Board Member Ida Hale.

Ida put out what seemed like superhuman effort to set up, supervise, take down and clean the venue when so many of our membership only came to enjoy the show, or perhaps sell a few plants. We all owe Ida a huge debt of gratitude and a personal "Thank You" for doing the work that needed to be done, when it needed to be done, and with care and love that shone in the success of the vendors and the visitors experiences alike. When it comes to a real trooper, Ida defines the term.

Now, that is by no means intended to minimize or forget the contributions of Ida's MayFaire committee or the members who volunteered their time and resources to make the show a success. The Directors were very generous with their time and resources, and worked very hard for the weekend and beyond. Peggy Purchase, Joyce Elisha, Carol Easton, Joan McHenry, Carolyn Salmon, Bill Hale, Jim Nybakken, Nobu Cress all were present and working well beyond the call of duty. Next year, we hope that the members who did not put forth as much effort will pitch in.

Confucius said, "Many hands make light work." The more people who participate, the easier it is for all. We cannot keep depending on the same faithful and hardworking people year after year. In fact, there is consideration in the Board meetings of putting an incentive on participation, or placing some kind of disincentive on lack of participation, so that more people will pitch in. It would be so much easier next time if only a dozen more people showed up, and please, don't imagine that "someone else will do it." It's your Society. Show up!

BB Editor's Film Honored at Festival

Your Editor has to take a moment to announce a wonderful event. In April, in cooperation with Charlotte Gerson (his mother) and Steve Kroschel, a wonderful cinematographer, he helped write and produce a documentary called *The Gerson Miracle*, about his grandfather's successful holistic therapy for chronic diseases.

The documentary was screened at the Beverly Hills Film Festival on May 8, 2004. The next evening, at the awards ceremony, it was honored with the Golden Palm for the Best Picture in the Festival, out of over 2,000 submissions. The *Monterey County Herald* carried an interview with your Editor in the May 25th issue.

The film is available on DVD and VHS.



The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 6 June 2004

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