



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 7
July 2004

Our July Speaker: Mr. Paul H. Chim of May On Nursery, San Leandro, CA

Our July speaker will be a long-time orchid aficionado, Paul Chim from May On Nursery, 462 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Paul bought his first cymbidium in 1966, and has been addicted ever since.

Paul was the co-founder of the Golden Gate cymbidium society, and is a past president of the Orchid Society of California, the San Francisco Orchid Society and the Marin Orchid Society.



Cymbidium

An accredited judge of the Cymbidium Society of America, Paul has collected orchids in China, Guatemala, Belize and Nicaragua. He specializes in cool-growing orchids, both species and hybrids.

For several years now, Paul has been taking groups of orchid lovers to China, visiting the local growers there.

Please let's make Paul welcome on Monday.

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Photographs courtesy Pat Landee



Brassia Culture

This is a genus of 29 species distributed throughout Tropical America. Most of the species are epiphytic in wet forests at elevations from sea level to 5000 feet.

Culture of brassias is similar to that of cattleyas but with little more shade and should not be allowed to dry out completely.

Most plants grow to about 2 feet tall; some with flowers that can stretch more than 18 inches from tip to bottom. The slender pointed sepals and petals of the flower resemble legs of a spider and the lip of the flower is shaped much like the spider's body, hence the Brassia is sometimes called the "Spider Orchid".

Crosses of Brassia with other genera help increase plant vigor and flower size. These intergeneric crosses also help the plants to grow in a wider range of temperature and also make them a more forgiving plant for beginners.

Some of the crosses are:

Miltassia = *Miltonia* x *Brassia*

Aliceara = *Brassia* x *Oncidium* x *Miltonia*

Brassidium = *Brassia* x *Oncidium*

Temperature: 55 to 60 F night; 80 to 85 F during the day. If temperatures rise into the 90's, increase humidity and air movement.

Light: A shadow should be detected when placing hand 10"-12" above plant. This is the quality of light required for at least 6 hours a day.

WATER: Always water plant in the morning with tepid water. Watering should be thorough, and the medium should dry at least halfway through the pot before watering again. Frequency will depend on your climate, pot size and material (clay or plastic), and type of potting medium.

Humidity: 40-60%. If you do not have adequate humidity, place the plant above pebbles in saucer or tray filled with water making sure the pot is not sitting in the water.

Fertilizer: The easiest way to feed the orchid is to give it a weak solution (1//2 to 1/3 dilution) of fertilizer every time it is watered. Application of high nitrogen formulation (30-10-10) should be used in a bark-based medium. An even numbered formulation (20-20-20) should be used in other media or on slabs.

Potting: When the plant is outgrowing the pot or when the medium is breaking down and holding too much moisture then it is time to repot. Potting should be done when new growth is about 4 inches tall. Use medium bark making sure the plant is positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing room for growth.



Brassia

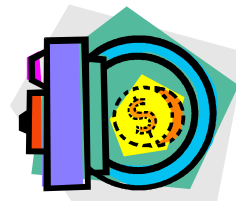
Some Pretty Pictures on the WWW

COS President Jim Nybakken has called to our attention some websites with lovely images of all kinds of orchid species and hybrids. If you are curious, please check out these Internet sites:

- pleurothallids.com
- woodstreamorchids.com
- cuenca.net/orchids
- orchidspecies.com



Treasurer's Report May, 2004



Checkbook Balance on May 1	\$7,583.45
May income	6,658.75
May expense	(4,510.76)
Checkbook Balance on May 31	\$9,731.44

CD balance on May 15 was **\$7,583.23**

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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Member of the
American Orchid Society?
Yes No

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Carmel Orchid Society July Meeting

Monday, July 5, 2004 at 7:30pm 7:00pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Paul Chim, May On Nursery will speak on Fragrant Asian Cymbidiums

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 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 July Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2004 at 7:30pm
At Shirley West's home, 38525 Highway 1, Big Sur. Two miles past Rocky Point Restaurant on East side of Highway.

Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair

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

Carmel Orchid Society Greenhouse Tour

Sunday, September 12, 2004. We will be having a bus tour, and details will be announced in the next *Backbulb*.

Upcoming speakers:

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

Selling Orchids at the COS May Faire

For some time now, there has been a certain number of people who have, unfortunately, taken advantage of the Carmel Orchid Society's wish to make membership as easy and economical as possible, while still enjoying the benefits of membership. Our May Faire is the annual fundraising activity for the Society, and it is through the revenues we garner then that we can subsidize membership costs the rest of the year.

Of course, the May Faire requires lots of volunteer labor and effort from the membership, but every ounce of effort that is contributed is returned manifold in the benefits we reap from membership.

That some do not volunteer makes it more arduous for those who do show up, willingly and ready for work. But what is insupportable is the practice that some have made into a habit of using the ability to sell their plants at the Faire without contributing in return. Some even regularly delay paying their COS dues until the day they bring their plants to the show. This *will* stop. For one thing, the dues are so reasonable that it is just not fair to your fellow members to scrimp on them. For another, annual dues are ... well ... *due* in January, not May or April.

COS Board President Jim Nybakken has requested that if you intend to sell plants at the May Faire, that you *must* have your dues paid up by the preceding March, otherwise, **your plants will not be placed on the table for sale**. It is a shame that we must resort to such measures, but it is otherwise not fair to the members who pay their dues promptly and contribute time and effort to keep our Society strong.

Mark Your Calendars ...

Last year's Greenhouse Tour, arranged by Carol Easton, was a tremendous success, really fun and lots of great flowers. This year's promises to be as well, since Carol has again volunteered to organize it. Though we have no details yet, do mark your calendars for Sunday, September 12 and plan on joining us for a fun day of orchid hopping!





Bill Hale to Provide July Treats

For a little bit of a change, and since there was a potluck dinner with desserts last time, COS Past President **Bill Hale** has volunteered to bake one of his sinfully delicious cakes for the refreshment table at our July meeting.

On Monday, please sign up again for our August meeting, as we will be resuming our normal goodies volunteer rotation.

Meanwhile, thank you to all who have volunteered in the past year, and to our tireless, efficient and constant **Ellie Mamon** for presenting the goodies that our members provide. You are appreciated!



Orchid Growing Tips

Your Carmel Orchid Society Board has decided to introduce a new column to our newsletter.

We will highlight two or three orchid growing tips each for the benefit of all the orchidists out there.

Try Orange Guard for safe and effective pest control. It's active ingredient is the extract or the orange rind and is safe to use in the kitchen. However dilute the solution to one part Orange Guard to three parts water. Careful with the blooms as this is still a solvent!

Are your leaves looking a little yellow? Try watering your plants using some epsom salts at the rate of one teaspoon to the gallon. Your plants may be experiencing a magnesium deficiency rather than an iron deficiency. This process can be repeated every few months.

Be sure to soak your bark mix for a few hours before repotting your orchids. This will hydrate the bark and it will hold water more effectively.

'Til next month--enjoy your orchids!

Carolyn Salmon

Volunteers Needed for the Hospice Cymbidium Garden

Peggy Purchase writes that she needs some assistance with our COS humanitarian services at the Hospice of the Monterey Peninsula.

She describes the work: "All you need to do is water, fertilize & clean the plants up a bit. You would do this on a Monday or Tuesday about once every two months."

This is one of the nicest things that the COS does for our community, and the cheer it brings to desperate families is heartwarming.

For more information and to sign up, please call Peggy Purchase at (408) 624-8442.



Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope



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Carmel Orchid Society

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