

The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 10
October 2004

October Speaker: Dennis Olivas of D&D Orchids

We are pleased to announce that our October speaker will be Dennis Olivas, who will speak on the topic "Cool-Growing Orchids." Dennis will discuss general culture, care and year-round transplanting of orchids. Dennis' presentation will include slides, demonstrations, questions and answers. Learn valuable techniques and have your questions answered by a master grower. Dennis, along with his partner David Dunn, own D & D Flowers in Half Moon Bay.



Photograph courtesy Jud Grubbs

Born and raised in Waimea on the Island of Kauai, Dennis Olivas began his venture into orchid cultivation when his FFA advisor saw a couple of his mother's neglected plants on the side of the yard under the lychee tree. Dennis was introduced to Mr. Miyamoto and Mr. Kodama in Waianae, Mr. Takeguchi in Waipahu, and Mr. and Mrs. Ferrera in Kaneohe. Besides gaining

knowledge from the Oahu growers, he purchased community pots and potted plants for his FFA project. Some of his favorite plants growing up include Lc. Flirtie Gold, Den. Neo-Hawaii, Den. Jacquelyn Thomas, Den. Concert, Den. Amy, C. Rembrandt, Den. Ted Takeguchi, Den. Dale Takeguchi, V. Nelly Morley, and V. JVB.

Dennis is a certified American Orchid Society judge. He currently serve as president for the Diablo View Orchid Society and board of director for the Peninsula Orchid Society. He was also president of the Peninsula Orchid Society and San Francisco Orchid Society. He served as board member on many of the other societies as well as show chairman.

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The Orchid Doctor is ... I N!

With my sincere apologies to Mr. Schulz, Charlie Brown's creator, for the paraphrase, we *would* like to remind you that this week, before the meeting, Bill Hale will be helping people with their problem orchids, diagnosing, recommending changes, and being his usual charming, helpful, knowledgeable self. I never come away

from listening to Bill without learning something useful.

So, bring your "problem children," and get some pointers from our resident guru!



Photograph courtesy Jud Grubbs



Angraecum (Vanda) Culture

Members of this genera range from India, Ceylon, Assam, Burma, Thailand, Indo China, China, Malaya Archipelago including Indonesia and New Guinea, northward into the Philippines and as far south as the northern coast of Australia. While these monopodial types have an extensive range, it is generally tropical in nature. In fact, most vandaceous genera inhabit very warm areas from sea level to 1700 feet (500 meters) elevation and seldom, experience temperatures below 50°F. (10° Celsius). Included in this group are species and hybrids of the following genera: *Aerides*, *Angraecum*, *Ascocentrum*, *Euanthe*, *Gastrochilus*, *Neofinetia*, *Papilionanthe*, *Plectrelminthus*, *Renanthera*, *Rhynchostylis*, *Saccalabium*, *Sarcanthus*, *Trichoglottis*, *Vanda*, *Vandopsis*, and a number of man made genera, such as Aranda, Ascocenda, Mokara, to name a few.

All vandaceous orchids are monopodial (one foot), which is a growth form where a single stem continues to grow from its apex (top) year after year. Members of the Vandaceous genera are characterized by the unlimited growth in length of the stem, combined with the entire absence of pseudobulbs. Their leaves alternate in two opposite ranks (distichous), flat and keeled on back side (strap leaf), or terete (pencil shaped) and semi-terete (combination of first two). Inflorescence comes out of the leaf axil or stem, erect, few flowers to many flowers. Flowers are showy and colorful, often large.

LIGHT— Vandaceous genera grow best in high light intensity. If possible full eastern sun (morning), up until noon should be given. Observation of the leaf structure can be your best guide to the correct light conditions for which a type is particularly suited. The terete (pencil like, i.e. *Papilionanthe*) or semi-terete foliage will tolerate full sun (maximum light) if acclimated properly. However, the flattened surfaces of strap-leaf foliage will absorb more heat. Unless protected, during the hottest part of the day, strap leaves will burn in full sun. It has been reported that vandaceous species and modern vandaceous hybrids can be grown and flowered successfully in low light (i.e., Phalaenopsis light). As a rule of thumb, if growing in low light, reduce the water and fertilizers frequency.

TEMPERATURE— Plants should not be exposed to temperatures below 50°F. (10° Celsius) and will tolerate temperatures up to 100°F (38° Celsius). At higher temperatures, air circulation and humidity must be increased. Increased air circulation allows frequent applications of water to the foliage. The increased watering can prevent possible dehydration and burning when temperatures reach the higher levels.

WATER— Vandaceous Orchids enjoy frequent watering, during their growing period. The frequency of watering is relative to the container, the temperature, air circulation, and if any water retaining medium is in the container. Watering should be done, so the roots are dry within a few hours. In warmer periods, several waterings a day can be done without worry, if the roots can dry quickly. The increased watering provides cooling effects, as well

as prevents possible dehydration and burning. The roots are designed to absorb water quickly, and if grown in baskets and/or net pots, without medium, overwatering will never be a problem.

FERTILIZER— Vandaceous Orchids are "heavy" feeders, particularly when in full growth. During the Spring through early Fall, fertilizing every seven days, with several clear waterings in between, will make your Vandaceous 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 20-20-20 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 fertilizers that have micronutrients, to provide strength for the new growth, as well as support for the flowers.

POTTING— Vandaceous plants highly resent being disturbed, so re potting should be undertaken only when absolutely necessary. The best time is in late spring, such as April or May, after all flowering has ceased. Avoid disturbing the root system any more than necessary. To minimize root damage, a warm water soak for 10 minutes, will make most roots very pliable and easy to manipulate.

Hardwood slat baskets are the best containers for Vandaceous orchids. The baskets allow free air flow over the roots, and eliminate overwatering problems. An alternative is slotted plastic net pots, or clay orchid pots. The plastic net pots allow a similar air flow as baskets, and are considerably cheaper. Clay pots do not allow as free air movement as the first two, but if adjustments in watering frequency are made no problems will be encountered.

If potting medium is used, the medium must be well-drained, i.e. coarse fir bark, pieces of lava rock, pieces of broken pottery, chunks of tree fern, hardwood charcoal, etc. so that the roots can be wet but then dry quickly. **Vandaceous plants will grow perfectly well if no medium is used, providing the watering schedule is increased.**



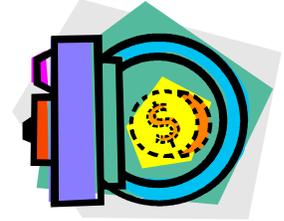
Vanda, Thailand



Your Dedicated Board of Directors—
Working *Hard* for You

photograph courtesy Shirley West

Treasurer's Report August, 2004



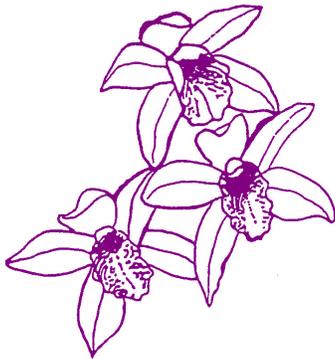
Checkbook Balance on August 1	\$7,638.16
August income	1,121.00
August expense	(1,386.16)
Checkbook Balance on August 31	\$7,373.00

CD balance on August 15 was **\$7,603.27**

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 Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2004 at 7:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church

510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940

Speaker: Dennis Olivas, D&D Orchids

Bill Hale is "The Orchid Doctor." Bring your "problem" orchids for first aid.

Carmel Orchid Society September Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2004 at 7:30pm

At Ken and Sharon Ashton's home, 26966 Laureles

Grade Road, Carmel Valley. 659 7387

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 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.

S.F. Orchid Society OrchidFest 2004

Sat.-Sun., October 2-3, 2004, 10am-5pm at the Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, San Francisco.

Admission: \$2.00. For more information, call (415)

665 2468 or visit their website at www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

Carmel Orchid Society Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12, 2004. Once again, this annual bash will be held at the Monterey Beach Resort at the end of Canyon del Rey. Talk with Ida Hale about volunteering for setup.

Images from the 2004 COS Greenhouse Tour



Notes from the Board of Directors

If you are interested in some rare and collectible orchid books, listen up! The Board has determined that the COS library is little utilized, often people are not aware it exists, and has decided to liquidate it. As part of this operation, some of these beautiful volumes will be placed on the plant table for raffle prizes over the next three months, including the Christmas Party. There will still be all the plants we are used to, but the books will constitute an alternate choice.

To encourage timely payment of dues, there will be a special pre-affle

drawing at the Christmas Party, the winner to be drawn from the ranks of those who have paid their dues by December 2, 2004 *only*. Remember, COS annual dues are from January to January, no matter when you originally joined the Society.

Jim Nybakken also said that he would recommend several Web sites with gorgeous pictures for those with Internet access (through your library, you all have access).

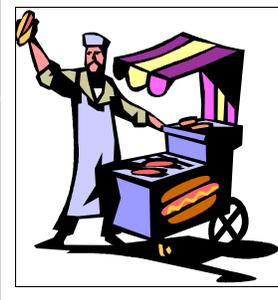
Photographs courtesy Pat Landee



October Goodies Providers

The goodies in September were not provided at a regular meeting, since the Greenhouse Tour took the place of the monthly meeting. However, there are definitely thanks to be offered for the food on the tour.

Ida Hale organized much of it, while **Bill Hale, Deric Wenzler and Ken Ashton** manned the grill, skillfully! The food was just delicious, and there were even several carnivores eyeing the fantastic "vegetarian surprise!" Thanks to you all!



Our October treats will be supplied by:

Tom Bremser
Joanie Linares
Marilyn Uribe
Diane Segelberger
Pat Landee

Orchid Growing Tips

October and November are two of the best months to repot *Cattleya* type orchids. New roots have usually emerged from the new growths and may be two or three inches long. In their natural habitat, they emerge to take advantage of the coming rainy season. These roots will go down into your new mix and your orchid has a better chance of success. Keep that *cattleya* mix really open with medium bark, maybe a little perlite and a little horticultural charcoal will keep the water sweeter as it absorbs toxins.

I found another good newsletter online put out by the Brisbane Orchid Society. There are some good orchid culture articles on the website at www.users.bigpond.com. Another great site is the New Jersey Orchid Society at www.njorchids.org. For those of us that have the Swan orchids (*cynoches*), they have a good article on their culture at this site.

Remember, if you would like to share your orchid growing tips with other members, email me at Cargie@Yahoo.com.

Carolyn Salmon

Barbershop!

Your editor, Howard Straus, is a member of the Cypressaires, the local barbershop singers, and would like to invite you to a joint vocal performance they are staging with their female counterparts, the Bay Belles on November 6, 2004 at Pacific Grove Middle School on Forest Avenue. There will be two shows, an afternoon and an evening show. The theme is "a 1930s ocean voyage," complete with scenery and costumes.

If you enjoyed the lighthearted and vivacious music of *The Music Man*, music that harks back to a more innocent time, you will surely enjoy this show.

Please call Howard Straus for more information: 625 3565 (h) or 277 2319 (cell).

Editor's Corner

It is with great regret that I have announced to the Board of Directors that after nearly three years of being your *Backbulb* Editor, it is time for me to move on. I have appreciated the support and feedback that the Society's members and Board have extended to me, and hope to be a continuing and contributing member of the Society for a long time to come. The December 2004 issue of the *Backbulb* will be my last as Editor.

That being the case, the Society needs a new Editor. We are therefore calling for anybody with the desire and/or skills to be the new Editor of the *Backbulb*. I will, of course, give the new Editor all the materials and archives in my possession, and all the help they need to carry on.

Please contact me or Jim Nybakken if you are interested.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement!

- Howard Straus, Editor



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