



The Backbulb

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 47, Number 11
November 2004

November Speaker: Steve Beckendorf, UC Berkeley

"I started growing orchids about 20 years ago and quickly became fascinated by odontoglossums and their close relatives because of their beauty and variety, because excellent plants were available from growers and hybridizers on the West Coast, and because of their glamorous past as the most sought after plants in the orchid frenzy that gripped Europe in the 19th century. I soon realized that few of the odontoglossum species were readily available and began collecting them for propagation and use in hybridizing. My attempt to find unusual or lost species has led to several trips to the cloud forests of Mexico and South America. I currently grow about 50 odontoglossum species and another 30-40 of their near relatives along with lots of odont hybrids and a smattering of other cool growing genera.



photograph courtesy Howard Straus

"The talk this month will discuss how orchids evolved to produce the incredibly wide array of species and pollination mechanisms that make them one of the most successful families of flowering plants. It's a great topic for speculation, since nobody is very sure what happened. "Professionally, I'm a professor at UC Berkeley, where I teach genetics and do genetic and developmental biology research. Because of this scientific background, I'm interested in many areas of orchid research, am actively involved in DNA-based revisions of orchid taxonomy, and currently serve as President of the Odontoglossum Alliance and as a member of the Research Committee of the American Orchid Society."

Let's give Steve a warm welcome.

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photograph courtesy Pat Landee

Reserve December 12th for the 2004 Annual Carmel Orchid Society Christmas Party!

COS Members: \$25/ea, Non-members: \$30/ea

(Details Inside, p. 4)



Dendrobium Culture

Dendrobium is a diverse genus of orchids with different cultural needs. Many go through a growth phase and then a rest phase during the course of one year, and must be given water and temperature to match these periods of growth and rest. Flowers can last one day to many weeks, depending on the type. Owing to the extreme diversity of the genus, we have categorized culture according to the following main types:

PHALAEANTHE – Evergreen for several years, with thin, tall pseudobulbs, terminal inflorescences, usually appearing in the autumn or twice a year (see culture).

Species such as *Den. affine*, *Den. bigibbum (phalaenopsis)*, *Den. dicuphum* and *Den. williamsianum*.

Culture Grow warm year round (see below); 60°F nights; water and fertilize heavily when roots appear from new growth; medium light; reduce water and fertilizer after growth finishes. If a short (three- to four-week), cooler (55°F) dry rest is given, and then plants are warmed again (60°F minimum), another growth may mature during winter and flower in the spring. Treat this growth as a summer growth cycle. These grow well with phalaenopsis, except for the rest period. Plants will go deciduous if grown too cool and dry.

SPATULATA (Antelope Type) Evergreen for several years. Most are large, vigorous plants with long-lasting flowers in summer to several times a year. Species such as *Den. antennatum*, *Den. canaliculatum*, *Den. discolor*, *Den. gouldii*, *Den. johannis*, *Den. lineale (veratrifolium)*, *Den. stratiotes*, *Den. streblceras* and *Den. taurinum*.

Culture Warm all year (60° to 65°F nights, 75° to 90°F days); no rest period; can be kept cooler in winter if dry; medium to high light.

DENDROBIUM – Most of the plants are pendulous, with leaves all along the canes that most often drop with onset of cooler, drier weather. One to five flowers per node are borne from the nodes of the leafless canes in midwinter through early spring.

Group 1 – Species such as *Den. chrysanthum*, *Den. friedricksonianum*, *Den. nobile* and *Den. wardianum*.

Culture – Growth period in summer; give warmth, water and fertilize heavily from when roots appear until top leaf appears on canes. Then give high light, little or no water, no fertilizer, cool nights (40° to 50°F). In other words, forget about them.

Group 2 – Species such as *Den. anosmum (superbum)*, *Den. crassinode*, *Den. falconeri*, *Den. fimbriatum*, *Den. findlayanum*,

Den. heterocarpum (aureum), *Den. loddigesii*, *Den. moniliforme*, *Den. parishii*, *Den. primulinus* and *Den. transparentis*.

Culture Same as Group 1, but winter nights 55°F. Deciduous species need virtually no water in winter.

CALLISTA – Most are pseudo bulbous plants with pendent inflorescences.

Species such as *Den. aggregatum* (now properly *lindleyi*), *Den. chrysotoxum*, *Den. densiflorum*, *Den. farmeri* and *Den. thyrsoiflorum*.

Culture Summer give warmth (60° to 90°F), medium light, medium quantities of water and fertilizer. Winter keep cool (50°F nights), medium light, just enough water to keep pseudobulbs from shriveling, no fertilizer.

LATOURIA – Leaves at top of pseudo bulbs are large and leathery, inflorescence erect, flowers commonly yellow-green.

Species such as *Den. atrovioleaceum*, *Den. macrophyllum* and *Den. spectabile*.

Culture Same as antelope types, but cooler and drier when resting in winter.

FORMOSAE (Nigrohirsutae Type) Canelike pseudobulbs, with black hairs on leaf sheaths and pseudobulbs often apparent, leading to the popular name nigrohirsutae. Flowers usually white, up to 4 inches across, two to three together from near the end of the pseudobulb. Long lasting. Species such as *Den. Bellatulum*, *Den. dearii*, *Den. draconis*, *Den. formosum*, *Den. infundibulum*, *Den. lowii*, *Den. lyonii*, *Den. margaritaceum*, *Den. sanderiae* and *Den. schuetzii*.

Culture Intermediate to cool year round, 50° to 60°F nights, maximum 85°F days. Water and fertilize when growing; give a slight short rest (dry) when growth is completed. Keep barely moist until growth starts again.

OTHER SPECIES – Among the popular types are *Den. linguiforme*, *Den. tetragonum*, *Den. gracillimum* and *Den. cuthbertsonii (sophronitis)*. Culture Depends on the plant's native environment. It is generally safe to grow them intermediate to warm (55° to 60°F at night), drying them out in winter (or as growth stops). Hybrids between sections vary in culture.

Culture sheet courtesy of:
American Orchid Society 16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, Florida 33446-4351
Tel 561-404-2000 Fax 561-404-2100 E-mail TheAOS@aos.org
Web site orchidweb.org



From the Rose Garden Hotel, Thailand
photographs courtesy Howard Straus



Treasurer's Report September, 2004

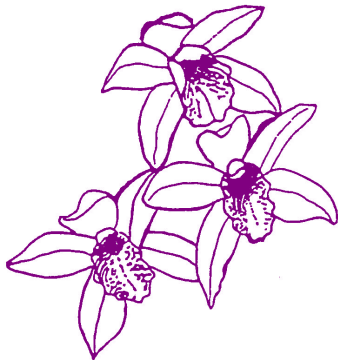


Checkbook Balance on September 1	\$7,373.00
September income	458.00
September expense	(521.90)
Checkbook Balance on September 30	\$7,309.10
CD balance on September 15 was	\$7,610.09

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

Date _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Member of the AOS?

Yes

No

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 1, 2004 at 7:30pm
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Steve Beckendorf, "How Orchids Evolved"

Carmel Orchid Society September Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, November 15, 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, November 9, 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 Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12, 2004. Once again, this annual
bash will be held at the Monterey Beach Res-
ort at the end of Canyon del Rey. Talk with Ida
Hale about volunteering for setup.
Don't forget, there's a bonus for having your 2005
annual dues paid before the party!

Notes from the Board of Directors

- The COS Board of Directors has decided to encourage timely payment of 2005 dues, which are due on January 1, not the anniversary of your joining the Society, by holding a separate raffle at the Christmas party with chances that are given only to members whose 2005 dues are paid up before the party. This raffle will be separate from and before the regular plant opportunity table.
- We have acquired a new computer-driven projector, since most of the speakers nowadays have switched from physical slides to bringing along a disk or memory stick with a "Power Point" presentation on it. Much more convenient, but we had been limited in our choice of speakers by not having a projector and system for their use. We will probably test it out at the Christmas party by having a continuous display of orchid photographs projected.
- We will be holding our election for officers of the society for the next year at the November 1st monthly meeting. The nominations are: Ken Ashton, President, Susan Segal, Vice President; Shirley West, Treasurer; Carolyn Salmon, Director and AOS representative; Carol Easton, Director; Kathy Apodoca, Secretary; Ida Hale, May Faire Chairperson; Sharon Aston, Director; James Nybakken, Director; Pat Landee, Director.
- The Board decided that there will be AOS judging at the next May Faire.
- Some of the library books have been approved to be sold to McQuerry Orchid Books in Florida. Those remaining are available for purchase by the members. We will be bringing some to the November and December meetings so those interested can see what is available.

Christmas Party Signup Coupon

Please sign me up for the COS Christmas Party on December 12th, 6:00pm-10:00pm at the Monterey Beach Resort.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Number of Members _____ (\$25 each)

Number of non-members _____ (\$30 each)

Please return this coupon with a check made payable to the Carmel Orchid Society to Ida Hale, The Carmel Orchid Society, P. O. Box 2454, Monterey, CA 93942 no later than December 5, 2004.

More Northern California Orchid Groups

NAPA VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY (70)

Napa Senior Center
1500 Jefferson Street, Napa
4th Friday of each month, 7:30 pm
Noble Emery, (707) 255-1529
Newsletter Editor: Noble Emery
2534 Darroch Court
Napa, CA 94558-2616
(no email)

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November Goodies Providers

We should all like to offer our sincere thanks to the people who generously provided the goodies for our October meeting. Now, it may be the imagination of the Editor, but the treats keep getting better and better!

Our thanks to **Tom Bremser, Joanie Linares, Marilyn Uribe, Diane Segelberger and Pat Landee.** As she always does, our wonderful **Ellie Mamon** set the treats out and decorated the table festively. Our November treats will be supplied by:



Cely Cruz
Lesley Olson
Lori Sigmund
Carolyn Salmon
Lupe Rubio
Cecilia Loleng, and
Ophelia Antonio

Orchid Growing Tips

It is almost Halloween. This is the time when you give some orchids their winter rest period with little or no water. Some of these orchids may include barkeria, catasetum, cynoches, cynodes and nobile type dendrobiums. There are many orchids who in their natural habitat enjoy a bright sunny, dry winter. For many orchids you can resume watering around Valentines Day or when buds appear in the case of those dendrobiums.

How to remember which ones need a rest? One suggestion is to simply turn the pot on its side so when you water others in the greenhouse they don't get watered or move them to one section or place a color coded tag in the pot to jog your memory.

There is a wonderful orchid magazine out there called *Orchid Digest*, geared toward the more serious hobbyist or hybridizer. It has detailed cultural info and lots of fabulous photographs. You can go online to subscribe

at www.orchiddigest.com.

Rather recently Bill Hale has started saving many of the back-bulbs he used to throw away when he was repotting all kinds of different orchids. He will place them in a small pot with pure long fiber sphagnum moss. This moss can hold the moisture necessary to sprout these bulbs—and you should see all his little babies! Soak the moss in a bowl of water for a couple of minutes and wring it out slightly. Pack it loosely in the pot leaving a little air pocket at the bottom or put in a couple styrofoam peanuts. That will work just as well. You can order this high quality moss from CalWest orchid suppliers in So. California.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

Orchid Societies ... continued

ORCHID FORUM OF SACRAMENTO (50)

McKinley Garden Center
McKinley Boulevard off Alhambra Street
4th Monday of each month, 7:30 pm
Jay Klock (916) 983-0581
Newsletter Editor: Jay Klock
805 Willowcreek Drive
Folsom, CA 95630
Email: Jklock_@hotmail.com

ORCHID SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA (202)

Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland
3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 pm .

AOS Judging: 7:00 pm

www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com

Maria Chow (510) 317-2032

16042 Via Del Sol

San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Email: maria218@pacbell.net

Newsletter Editor: Michael Anderson 510-651-1781

Email: vailanderson@comcast.net

(to be continued)



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Carmel Orchid Society

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