



The Backbulb

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The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 48, Number 2
February 2005

February Speaker Ivan Portilla

Ecuagenera was launched 50 years ago with the arrival of the Catholic priest, Father Angel Andretta, in the Bomboiza sector in the village of Gualaquiza (Wal-la-kee'sah), in the eastern province of Morona Santiago. In Bomboiza, a place privileged for its abundance of gold deposits and flora orchidacea, Andretta began the process of researching, selecting and collecting orchid species, making him a pioneer of orchid collection in the region, the Dracula at right is named for him. As a result of his work, in 1968 it was possible for Ecuador to participate for the first time in a world exposition of orchids in Colombia.

Wanting his work to continue, Andretta found help from a young man who demonstrated a real love for nature: Mario Portilla, who would become his main ally for many years. Later, Andretta continued his work of orchid collection in the hacienda Yumacay in Paute.

Meanwhile, they felt the need to build a business that would be dedicated to the conservation and marketing of orchids. In 1991 José Portilla, Mario's younger brother, appeared on the scene. Jose demonstrated a deep interest in this work and was invited

to participate in the business.

February 1992 marked the beginning of the new business, which by May of the same year was legally recognized under the name Géneros Ecuatorianos Ecuagenera CIA, TDA. The Portilla brothers were the founding members and Andretta was their adviser. It was this organization which took charge of the preservation of Andretta's orchid collection. To this day, this collection is carefully preserved in an effort to support the maintenance and reproduction of various species.



Dracula andreettae

By 1993 Ecuagenera became the first Ecuadorian business to obtain legal permission to export orchids through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Since its founding, Ecuagenera has established itself as a business leader in the research, preservation, and conservation of the flora orquidacea of Ecuador. Now, Ecuagenera is the largest orchid exporter in Ecuador and one of the largest in all the Americas.

Please join us and welcome Ivan for what should be a most interesting evening.

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Masdevallia & Dracula Culture

Masdevallia is a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World Tropics. Masdevallias are best known for their showy flowers consisting of sepals fused into a tube like structure. Their origins in cool, damp environments make them an excellent choice for cool or coastal climates. Most species and hybrids are compact enough so that they can be easily accommodated on windowsills or under lights.

L I G H T should be like that given for phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums — 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. Masdevallias can be kept in light intensities up to 2,500 foot-candles if the growing area can be kept cool. Plants grow well under standard fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade. In the home, place in an east or shaded south window or under artificial lights.

TEMPERATURES should be cool to intermediate. The plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 55 to 60 F are ideal; day temperatures should be 65 to 75 F. Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions. Avoid day temperatures higher than 80 F.

WATER is critical for these plants because they have minimal water-storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become almost dry before watering again; if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine. Good-quality water low in dissolved solids is imperative for success.

H U M I D I T Y is an important factor in the successful culture of masdevallias. The ideal range is 60 to 80 percent. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with wa-

ter. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by use of a humidifier, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended as is more frequent soaking.

F E R T I L I Z E regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10-type formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based medium. A 20-20-20-type formulation should be used for plants in other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient.



Masd. Rise 'N Shine
'Mountain side'
Marni Turkel
Award of Merit
Mayfaire 2003

P O T T I N G is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer arrives or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, before the potting mix decomposes. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or tree-fern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants. The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest from the edge of the container, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the vessel. Plants growing in many directions may be positioned in the center of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone

of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the plant. Firm the medium around the roots. Keep humidity high and the potting medium slightly dry until new roots form.

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COS Christmas Party 2004

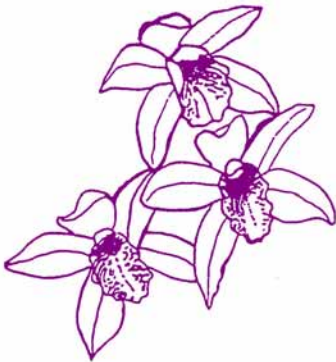


Treasurer's Report December, 2004



Checkbook Balance on December 1	\$6,642.36
October income	2,300.00
October expense	(3,388.69)
Checkbook Balance on December 31	\$5,536.67
CD balance on December 15 was	\$7,630.03

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 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 _____

Member of the
American Orchid Society?

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Yes No

Email address _____

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Check Our Website For More Events

Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2005 at 7:30pm
(First Monday of every month)
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Ivan Portilla, Ecuagenera.

Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, February 21st, 2005, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at Harold and Laverne Regan's home, 2161 Trapani Circle, Monterey, (831) 375-8040

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 7:00pm
(Second Tuesday of every month)
At the Via Verde Medical Group, 1332 Natividad Road, Suite C, Salinas, CA. For more information, call (831) 375 6871.

Santa Cruz Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

February 5-6, Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA. Contact: Cheryl Wagner, 91 Mountain View Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95065; (831) 457-8393.

Pacific Orchid Expo 2005

February 18-20, 2005 10:00am to 6:00pm. Presented by the San Francisco Orchid Society. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. For info call (415) 665-2468

Santa Barbara Intl Orchid Show

March 4-6, 2005 9:00am to 5:00pm, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA For Info Call (805) 967-6331

Note from Jim & Susan

As you know from this newsletter our speaker for February is Ivan Portillo from the Ecuagenera nursery in Ecuador. If you were at our March, 2004 meeting you may recall that Susan Segal and I showed you pictures of the nursery and the bilingual school that the Portillos have built and funded for the local school children. I cannot emphasize too strongly how impressed both Susan and I were with all that Ecuagenera is doing not only for the education of the local children but also in their efforts to buy up and preserve large tracts of the local cloud forest orchid habitat. In addition they are cultivating the greatest number of local orchid species to prevent more collecting of plants from the wild.

Last March Susan and I said that we would like the society to contribute to this effort either through money or supplies to the school. In our contacts with Ivan and his brother Pepe they have indicated that money would be preferable for them because they are buying school supplies here in the US. Since Ecuador operates on the dollar there is no problem with currency transactions. Although the Carmel Orchid Society as an organization will be making a contribution Susan and I think that it would be also appreciated and appropriate if you as individual members could also contribute to our gift. If you can contribute please bring the contribution in cash to the February meeting. We all thank you in advance.

Susan Segal and Jim Nybakken

Christmas Party Organizer

The Board of Directors is looking for someone to take charge of organizing this years Christmas Party. We know this is kind of early, but we did not want to wait till the last minute. If you are interested, please call Ken Ashton, 659-7387.



February Goodies Providers

Thanks to **Ellie Mamon, Bill and Ida Hale, and Susan Phillips** for taking care of the treats for our January meeting. They were terrific and really got us off on the right foot for the New Year.

February treats will be provided by:

- Francis Richardson
- Debra Majchier-Gore
- Kathy Apodoca
- Janette Ford
- Eddie Canfield

We are all anxious to try their faire!



*More
COS Christmas
Party 2004*

Orchid Growing Tips

As I sit down to write this column today, the day is beautiful and the greenhouse feels warm with the smells of lush greenery. What a welcome change from all the cold weather! I have pulled off many yellow and brown spotted leaves from my plants. Good hygiene is important to inhibit the spread of bacteria and fungi. There are some good orchid growers now using regular household hydrogen peroxide to control such bacteria. Put some in a little spray bottle and spray it on those brown spots that detract from our orchid's appearance. You can also use a little bit of Neosporin on the cut edges of leaves that you trim. Pat Landee has found a good orchid encyclopedia online. It is called the Orchid Lady's Illustrated Orchid Encyclopedia at www.orchidlady.com/encyclopedia/. Many of the genera described are accompanied by photos as well. I have found that many orchid societies like ours have put their newsletters online. They make for interesting reading and can be very informative about upcoming events in their respective areas. You may wish to look at the San Francisco Orchid Society at www.orchidsanfrancisco.com. You may find more culture notes at the Wessex Orchid Society newsletter. Their address is www.wessex-orchid-society.org.uk. If you want information on the upcoming Santa Barbara Orchid show, log onto www.sborchidshow.com. I'll see you there!

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com





ANNUAL MAYFAIRE 2005 ON THE HORIZON

The Carmel Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show and Sale will be held on April 30th and May 1st, 2005 at the Crossroads Shopping Mall. Ida Hale is the Chairperson for the event and is assisted by a busy committee. Our Orchid Show has become a tradition in our community and attracts several thousand visitors. It is an important time for members to participate in a variety of ways – displaying your prize orchids, preparing food for the vendors, working the COS sales table, hosting our visitors and, of course, helping in setting up and **cleaning up!** We will be asking for volunteers from the society to staff the MayFaire at our March and April meetings. If you would like to volunteer, please attend the meetings and sign up. If you cannot attend one of the meetings but would like to volunteer, please call Ida at 646-8724.

We have 23 vendors signed up to participate in the MayFaire, a record number. The vendor booths were quickly filled after send-

ing out the announcements. Our show has become one of the most popular with the vendors. However, you, our volunteers make the entire event possible. It takes about sixty volunteers beginning with the Friday, April 29th setup, to make the show a success. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up tables, drapes and displays on Friday beginning at noon. During the show, we need volunteers for four hour shifts to assist in the hospitality room and selling orchids on the COS sales table. We need lunch treats – salads, sandwiches, casseroles, desserts or your specialty will be gratefully accepted. The vendors and volunteers always appreciate the wonderful lunches that are provided during the show. Sunday, May 1st at 4:00 we **need as much help as possible.** We have to break down the tables, displays and cleanup the mall. Volunteers need to start after the vendors take their plants off and not before – so please be patient. We hope you will plan on assisting during the MayFaire. Your participation makes this event a success for the Carmel Orchid Society besides it is **FUN** and you become more acquainted with your fellow Orchid Society members.

Officers of the Carmel Orchid Society

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