

The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

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February Speaker Joe Parker

Joe Parker has a BS from Stanford and a PhD from Caltech in Mathematics, which left him totally unprepared to grow orchids. As a result, Joe was forced to earn a living in academia and the high tech world. He only started growing orchids about 8 years ago, on a challenge from his wife, Kathy. Refusing to settle for less than the best, Joe grows Dracu-



Pleurothallis pectinata
Grown by Joe Prker

las, and only Draculas. His collection of over 300 Draculas, representing at least 100 species, grows in Los Gatos and Pacifica. Joe is now Vice President of the Pleurothallid Alliance and on a mission to convince the world that Draculas are not only worth growing, but easy.

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

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Annual Greenhouse Tour

The Board of Directors has decided that the Annual Greenhouse Tour will be in our local area this year. Pat Landee has agreed to be the Chairperson. She needs two volunteers to join her on the committee. She also needs members to volunteer their greenhouses for the tour.

If you are interested, please call Pat at 655-9729.



Pleurothallis Culture

The Pleurothallids (Masdevallia, Dracula, Pleurothallis and many other genera) originate primarily from Central and South America. The genera contains thousands of very different species that come in almost every color, size & shape imaginable! Their flowers are dominated by their sepals and they have relatively insignificant petals and lips. However, the sepals are often very colorful.

Many Orchid connoisseurs favor Pleurothallids because they can flower many times per year, often producing multiple blooms each time.

Temperatures: Most species grow in a "cool to intermediate" range (50-58°F nights). Day-time temperatures should be 10-20°F above the night-time low. Fortunately, many of the species tolerate a much broader range. Strive for a nighttime temp as close as possible to the 50-55°F nights and then locate them in as cool a place as possible during the summer months. In the summer many people place them outside in a shady, cool spot. Better yet - grow them in a cool & humid greenhouse.

Keep in mind that many people use the phrases "Warm growing" & "Warm Tolerant" as though they were the same thing! This is often misleading as there are relatively few truly "warm preferring" Pleurothallids while there are many that are "warm tolerant" (please read as "Intermediate growing"). Even Pleurothallid specialists often refer to some as being "warm" but most often that simply conforms to the traditional orchid terminology as "Intermediate" growing conditions.

Humidity: The Pleurothallids like a relatively high humidity around 75%. Short periods of

lower humidity may be tolerated (lower humidity is tolerated briefly during the day if it can climb much higher during the nights), but results are always obtained if the growing environment is a stable and uniform one.

Lighting: They enjoy low light ranges from 800 to 1200 foot candles. Paphiopedilums or Phalaenopsis like a similar light range. Use the orchids as a guide. If their leaves become yellowish, it may be too bright. If they turn a deep, dark green it could be too shady (or improper fertilizer proportions). Less light in summer is sometimes better than too much as it lessens the stress that they may be enduring at that time.

Moisture: The Pleurothallids enjoy moisture. Without pseudobulbs, they have nowhere, other than in their leaves, in which to store water. Therefore, they should never be dry for more than a few hours at a time. Best results will be found by keeping the media lightly moist but never soggy and wet. Many do not like a high mineral content in their water. If possible, use collected rain water. Many people use de-ionized, distilled, reverse osmosis or other sources of good quality water in order to optimize growth.

Feeding: The Pleurothallids are NOT heavy feeders. Use a "balanced" fertilizer at about 1/4 strength every 2 or 3 weeks. Less when plants may be under stress. Always flush well with plain water between fertilizing. Bark based mediums may require additional Nitrogen but please realize that excess nitrogen causes increased breakdown of their moist bark media.

Media: The Media choices for these, as well as most orchids, seem nearly endless.

(Continued on page 4)



Photos by Joanie Linares
See page 6 for Details.

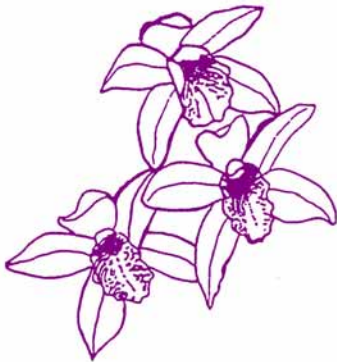


Treasurer's Report January, 2005



Checkbook Balance on January 1	\$5,553.67
January income	3,839.00
January expense	(683.00)
Checkbook Balance on January 31	\$8,709.67
CD balance on January 15 was	\$7,636.83

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, March 7, 2005 at 7:30pm (First Monday of every month)
The First Presbyterian Church
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940
Speaker: Joe Parker.

Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 21st, 2005, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at Carolyn and Jeff Salmon's home, 1520 David Avenue, Monterey, (831) 375-3748

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 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 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

San Diego County Orchid Society - 59th Spring Show & Plant Sale

April 8th - 10th, 2005. Fri. 4 - 9 pm; Sat. 9 am - 6 pm; Sun. 9 am - 4 pm. Admission \$6, children under 12 - free. Free parking. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108. Info: Genie Hammond, 1341 Park Dr., Chula Vista, CA 91911. (619) 426-6831 or (619) 997-1208.

www.sdorchids.com/shows.htm. Email: sdcos-orchid-show@san.rr.com.

February Meeting

The February meeting was a great success. Ivan Portilla from Ecuagenera in Ecuador arrived with a truck load of plants and a slide show on Ecuadorian Orchids



that was one of the best we have ever seen. Past President Jim Nybakken presented Ivan with a check from the Society to support the school.

(Continued from page 2)

Commonly used ones are fine Bark, Tree-fern, Sphagnum moss, Rock wool, perlite & usually a combination of one or more of these. Many recipes abound although a favored one by many consists of a mix of medium grade Tree-Fern and chopped sphagnum. This is often combined with the use of clay pots which can help to maintain cool roots. The author grows them in sphagnum moss in open-sided plastic net pots ...or wooden Baskets if they're large plants.

Culture sheet is courtesy of Mountain Orchids, Ludlow, VT. www.mountainorchids.com



Orchid Growing Tips

Spring is the ideal season to repot cymbidiums. I usually do this in May after most have finished blooming. Most cymbidiums have a slug or two living deep within the pot feeding on the new root tips. They typically crawl up through the drainage holes. When you repot this spring, consider lining the bottom portion of the pot with fiberglass window screening to effectively protect the drainage holes from slug incursions. You may find this window screening at Orchard Supply Hardware by the foot or in prepackaged rolls. Not ready to repot, but have cymbidiums with several dormant backbulbs? Gently twist some of the healthiest looking bulbs to break them away from the underlying rhizome. This will tell the dormant eyes on the bulb to sprout new green leaves. Many growers use this technique because it saves time and space. If the bulb never sprouts, you can throw it away. The other option is to place groups of two or three bulb groups in a separate pot to sprout when dividing your larger cymbidiums. You may even speed this process by putting backbulbs in a plastic bag in an egg carton to keep them upright while they sprout.

Some will add a small amount of moist vermiculite to the bag for the bulb to set in. You want the bulb upright so the new growth points upwards as you replant the bulb in new bark. It can take a few months for some bulbs to sprout, so don't give up too soon!

Many orchid societies have websites on the internet these days. Ours is a fine example. Check out the Houston Orchid Society at www.houstonorchidsociety.org. They have a nice site complete with orchid articles and a new one on vanda culture.

March Goodies Providers

Thanks to Francis, Debra, Kathy, Janette, and Eddie for taking care of the treats for our February meeting. They were wonderful.

March treats will be provided by:

- Lupe Rubio
- Pat Landee
- Margaret Scaroni
- Emelita Harvey
- Marilyn Uribe



We are all anxious to try their faire!

Cal West Tropicals is a good supplier for orchid hobbyists located in Southern California. Their website is www.calwesttropical.com. Their shipping costs are much cheaper than Charlie's Greenhouse supplies located in Washington State.

Thank goodness spring is almost here. Time to resume your fertilizing your orchids after a winter's rest.

Don't forget the upcoming Santa Barbara Orchid Show Mar 4th. Be there!

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com



MAYFAIRE 2005 HOSPITALITY MAKES IT SPECIAL

The growers and volunteers are always delighted by the wonderful feast which our COS members provide during the May-Faire. Wonderful salads, special dishes and delicious desserts attract everyone to this special courtesy for our vendors and volunteers.

We will have food sign-ups at the April COS meeting. Bill Hale, our past President and the Hospitality Chairperson will be pleased to hear from you if you have something special to contribute or unable to sign-up at the meeting. This is the time for all of you wonderful cooks to make your special dish.

Food should be delivered to the Hospitality room, across from the Sheriff's Substation office in the mall, by 10:00 AM each day. This will provide time for Bill and his committee to set up the luncheon. If you would like to bring some treats for break time during the morning or afternoon, you may leave it in the Hospitality room for the committee to arrange.

The vendors are constantly telling us that this is one of their favorite shows because they are treated so kindly and the **food is great!** Compliments to all our talented members and thanks for keeping up the tradition!

Editors Note: We love having beautiful orchid pictures to include in the Backbulb, especially ones from members. Feel free to send me pictures, but also include as much identification as possible. In this case the top picture from, Joanie Linares, is a Cattleya Ulii Blc. Mahina Yahiro and the bottom picture is a Cymbidium Daniel Hill 'Mar Verde' and has a slight citrus fragrance.

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*Our First Open House will be
Saturday, March 12, 2005 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.*

*For visits on other days, please call for an appointment.
Please note that White Oak Orchids is a working nursery, not a retail store.*

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94044