



# The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

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May 2005

## May Speaker Albert Scott

Well known to many members Albert, a former president and two time vice president of the COS, will speak on the orchids of Viet Nam.

He retired from DLI and began a routine of 6 months in the U.S. and 6 months in Vietnam, where he teaches English at the An Giang State University.

Last year his sister sold her house in Florida and they lost their Florida orchid growing area. He approached the Rector of the University with a proposed curriculum for the Agriculture Department, agreeing to contribute the orchids from their collection if the University would provide an acceptable growing area. Mai Scott is advising the Agriculture department in the techniques of orchid growing. In addition to the university growing area, they also grow orchids at their home, 25 km from the Uni-

versity. Excess divisions from their home also go to the University. Al is currently a member of the West Pasco Orchid Society in Florida.

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



Dendrobium tuananhii  
Muong Te, Lai Chau Province, Viet Nam  
This is a newly discovered variety.

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## Support MayFaire 2005

### Support Your Society

Attend and Volunteer at Mayfaire, April 30 and May 1. Much planning and hard work has gone into the preparation to make this another successful year. This is the main fund raiser for the Society and we need your support. Call Ida Hale 646-8724 to help.

## Annual Dues

For those of you who have not done so, nearly a third of the membership, it is again time to pay our dues. Dues become delinquent after MayFaire. Make sure you continue to receive the Backbulb and are included in the 2005 Roster, pay your dues **NOW**. All the information that you need is on page 3.



## Miltonia & Miltoniopsis Culture

These striking orchids, which are also known as pansy orchids, owing to their similarity to garden pansies, are enjoying increasing popularity. *Miltoniopsis* are cool-growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Panama and Ecuador. The warmer-growing species, properly miltonias, originate from the Minas Gerais area of Brazil and more closely resemble large-flowered oncidiums. Their flowers can be brilliantly patterned.

**LIGHT** should be relatively shaded. Direct sunlight burns the thin leaves within a short period of time. However, the warmer-growing types prefer more light than their cooler-growing relatives. The cool-growing species need approximately 1,200 foot-candles, while the warmer-growing species require closer to 2,000 foot-candles.

**TEMPERATURE** is critical for the cooler-growing plants. Unless temperatures are kept under 80° F, they may not flower. The minimum temperature is 50° to 55° F. Thus, these are really better thought of as intermediate growers because they need intermediate temperatures throughout the year — not too hot, not too cold. The warmer growers will take temperatures over 90° F as long as humidity levels of 70 to 75 percent, or higher, are maintained. The minimum temperature is 60° F.

**WATER** must be plentiful and the medium must drain perfectly. In their native habitat, the plants are drenched almost daily and, because of this, they are intolerant of salt buildup, so leaching every fourth or fifth watering is important when growing in pots. When they are not getting enough water or humidity, the leaves have a tendency to grow with accordion like pleats. The warmer-growing miltonias should be grown like cat-

tleyas; allow them to approach dryness between waterings. They also tend to be slightly more tolerant of salt buildup than their Colombian cousins so they can dry more between waterings.



Milt. *Patricia Anne 'Max'*  
The Orchid House, Los Osos, CA  
MayFaire 2003 AOS CCM  
Photo by Patricia Ann Landee

**HUMIDITY** must be at least 70 percent because of the plants' need for abundant water. Less humidity will stress the plants and can lead to susceptibility to disease, though too much humidity is worse than too little.

**FERTILIZE** at the same level as other orchids: half-strength, balanced fertilizer every two weeks. This can be reduced by half during overcast weather or in winter. A 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation is beneficial in early spring when plants

approach their flowering period.

**POTTING** should be done after flowering when the new growth is starting. Miltoniopsis should be repotted every year as they are intolerant of stale conditions. The cool growers (miltoniopsis) do well in small pots. The warmer growers (miltonias) tend to have a relatively elongated creeping habit and, therefore, do better mounted. Any potting mix suitable for fine roots such as 70 percent seedling bark with charcoal and perlite or a mix of 70 percent tree fern and 30 percent chopped sphagnum is adequate. Mounts may be cork, tree fern or other hard wood. They should be longer than wide. For some reason, shallow pans work better than deep pots.

### American Orchid Society

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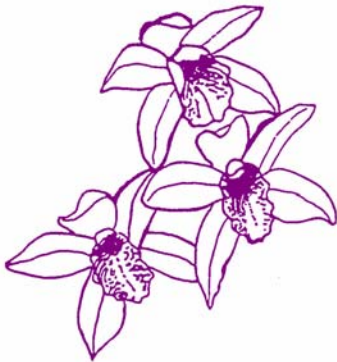
Cym. *Rumbles* 'Emerald Fire'  
Bakkenelle Orchids  
MayFaire 2003

## Treasurer's Report March, 2005



Checkbook Balance on March 1	<b>\$8,901.61</b>
March income	914.00
March expense	(910.07)
Checkbook Balance on March 31	<b>\$8,966.55</b>
CD balance on March 15 was	<b>\$7,658.55</b>

*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, May 2, 2005 at 7:30pm (First Monday of every month)  
The First Presbyterian Church  
510 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940

#### Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2005, at 7:30pm  
The meeting will be held at Shirley and Peter West's home, 38525 Hwy 1 @ Rocky Creek, Monterey 620-1001.

#### Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 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.

#### COS MayFaire 2005 Orchid Show & Sale

Saturday April 30th, and Sunday May 1st  
Crossroads Shopping Village, Carmel, CA  
For more information call Ida Hale (831) 646-8724 www.carmelorchidsociety.org

#### 2005 Mother's Day Show & Sale

May 7 & 8, 2005  
Orchid Society of California  
Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland, CA  
Hours are 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturday & 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday  
www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com

## Selling Orchids at MayFaire

Members of the Carmel Orchid Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. Plants, which are presented for sale, must be disease and pest-free and attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself.... *Would I buy this plant?*

Peggy Purchase is in charge of the Plant Table again this year and asked for us to remind members.....

- 1. Fill out the sales tag as completely as possible.**  
A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.
- 2. Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot.** This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them and creates problems in reading the tags. Contact Peggy or Ida to get tags in advance.



- 3. Bring the plants on Friday afternoon, April 29<sup>th</sup> between 12noon and 5pm.** There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received. Plants may also be brought in on Saturday or Sunday morning just before 9am and shall be put on display as sales space is available.
- 4. Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> or they will be discarded or donated.** The Society can not be responsible for plants not picked up at the designated time.

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references – pedi-

(Continued on page 6)



## Orchid Growing Tips

Last month I told you about the economical micro torches to be found at Harbor Freight in Salinas. Recently, I found really nice small torches. They are culinary torches used for desserts like creme broulet and such. They can be purchased at Sur La Table in the Carmel Plaza. What a wonderful kitchen store. They had several nice dishes that could be used as decorative humidity trays as well.

This next tip is for plants in general, not just orchids. I went into a small shop at the Crossroads and was immediately drawn to a beautiful, large springerli fern. For many of us, this is a difficult fern to keep alive and beautiful over time. The shopkeeper got his tip from a little old lady. He gives his plants a cup of cold green tea each week. He swore to its effectiveness for maintaining healthy plants.

Would you like to reuse your old clay pots and have them look brand new again? Here's how. First you need a pressure washer. Use it to clean off those old pots. It will take off all the old roots and discoloration. Then run them through the dishwasher and you are all set to use them again.

You can encourage multiple new growths on orchids such as cattleys. The pseudobulbs have two dormant eyes at the base, but usually only the eyes on the last new growth sprout the next growths. You can take a sterilized tool and partially cut through the rhizome between the various pseudobulbs. This procedure may activate some of those dormant eyes.

See you at the MayFaire!

*Carolyn Salmon, [cargie@yahoo.com](mailto:cargie@yahoo.com)*

## April Goodies Providers

Thanks to Maggie, Lorette, Lori, Lesley, Thé and Gretta for taking care of the treats for our March meeting. They were wonderful.

Treats for this month will be provided by:

- Gigi Wharton
- Imogene Speiser
- Pat Landee



We are all anxious to try their faire!



Pot. *Burana Beauty* 'Burana #4'  
MayFaire 2003



## The Big Display, MayFaire 2005

One of the major attractions at the MayFaire Orchid Show and Sale is always the members display under the flags in the Rotunda at the Crossroads Mall. This is a very special display of many, many varieties of blooming orchids. In order to create the splendor of orchids for which the MayFaire is famous, we need your contributions!

The display will be assembled on Friday afternoon under the able direction of Joyce Elisha. **Plants should be brought to the Crossroads Mall anytime between 12-4pm on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**. The show opens at 9am on Saturday morning, April 30<sup>th</sup> and the display must be in place!

Members are encouraged to bring their plants in an attractive container or basket. The plants will be shined with leaf polish and have moss placed around the base unless written instructions are attached to the plant that it is not to be shined and the plant is already attractively presented and the member has furnished his/her own moss. If you cannot bring the plants in yourself, please contact another COS member to assist you. Last minute additions may be accepted before 8am on Saturday if space is available.

At the conclusion of the show the display will be disassembled by Joyce and her Committee,

moss removed and the plants will be available from where the Plant Sale table was located during the show. **No plants are available until 4:30pm on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

The Guidelines that have been adopted for the MayFaire include:

1. **All plants are pest and disease free.**
2. **The leaves are clean and attractive (COS will clean with Plant Shine unless otherwise specified by the grower).**
3. **Plant is blooming to display its special attributes.**
4. **Pot is provided with an outer container.**
5. **Moss covers the base of the plant (provided by COS).**
6. **Plants should be staked and secured appropriately.**

**Members must pick up their plants promptly at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** because there is no storage or security for plants that are left after the show is concluded. We hope that members will be available at that time anyway to help in closing the show and sale and assisting with clean up. Many hands make light work for all! See you there!

## Backbulb Notice

At the March Board of Directors Meeting it was decided that starting in 2005 there would be a \$5.00 surcharge on the annual dues to cover the cost of printing and mailing for those who receive the BackBulb via the US Mail. There will be no charge to receive the electronic version of the Backbulb. If you need help with web site or electronic Backbulb, please contact Pat Landee or Jud Grubbs at 655-9729 who will provide assistance.

*(Continued from page 4) Orchid Selling at MayFaire 2005*

gree – are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted. A portion of

each sale goes to COS and is one of our primary fund-raisers during the year.

If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up or call Peggy at 624-8442. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member when you bring them in.