

The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

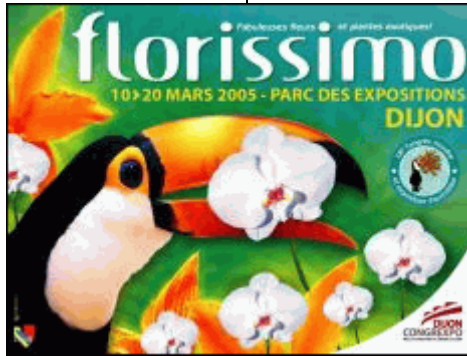
The Carmel Orchid Society

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August 2005

18th World Orchid Conference

What started out in 1979 as a rescue project of an abandoned odontoglossum, has turned into a lifelong love of orchids for Deric Wenzler. A professional gardener at the time, Deric knew of cymbidiums as garden plants, but little else. But in 1980, when he brought that same odontoglossum, in full flower, to his first Carmel Orchid Society meeting, there was no looking back.



In his 25 years as a C.O.S. member, Deric has been a Director, Editor and Vice-President. And it was in 1982 that he conceived and chaired the very first May Faire Orchid Show.

His attention was later directed toward the American Orchid Society, for which he was the Monterey

County Representative for seven years. In 1997 the A.O.S. awarded him with the title: "The Most New Members Recruited By a Member World-Wide", a record that still stands today.

Deric has written numerous articles on orchid growing and greenhouse design and collaborated on the book, When Does It Flower, by Robert M. Hamilton.

Today, Deric maintains an eclectic mix of mostly cool-growing orchids at his Carmel Highlands home. His latest dream was realized in March, 2005 when he attended the 18th World Orchid Conference in Dijon, France. The Conference will be his topic for the upcoming meeting this August. And as for that very first odontoglossum? Deric reports that it's doing just fine!

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September Greenhouse Tour

This year's Greenhouse Tour includes COS Member Greenhouses. On the tour will be:

- Carol & Jeff Salmon's small backyard greenhouse.
- Pat & Jud Grubbs' indoor atrium and outdoor cymbidium area.
- Carol & Bill Easton's greenhouse.
- Bill & Ida Hale's Bakkehelle Orchids greenhouses.
- Jim Nybakken's greenhouse. **No greenhouse handicap access.**

All the homes will be open from 10 am to 2 pm for you to visit at your leisure. Final details on assembly area and car pooling will be in the September Backbulb.

At the end of the tour (3 pm) lunch will be served at Jim Nybakken's house at a cost of \$10 Per member and \$15 for guests.

Sign up by September 1, 2005, sign-up sheet is on page 4.

Maps will be available at the August meeting.



Stanhopea Culture Sheet

Editors Note: Last month the Culture Sheet on Stanhopea was from the AOS. We send the Backbulb to a number of other societies in the Bay Area and got a very nice response from Doug Pulley, who was our November 2003 speaker. He has developed his own Stanhopea culture sheet which he has offered to share with us. Doug believes that there should be at least 50 of his Stanhopeas still alive among COS members. And if you having trouble getting them to bloom, he also sent an article on "Blooming Stanhopeas in Pots" see page 6.

Stanhopeas are among the easiest orchids to grow. They will grow vigorously and bloom easily under widely varied conditions. Blossoms are fantastically unusual "jungle gems" of curious shape, 4-8" across and 2-12 per spike, depending on variety and culture. The blossom spike grows downward through the planting mixture, so they will not bloom in a pot. Flowers hang below the plant.

Mature plants (bulbs larger than 1" diameter) must be planted in baskets lined with moss so the spikes can find a way out. I recommend 1" wire mesh, easy to cut out and form your own square basket 4-5" deep and 5-8" across, lined with moss, and filled with mix around the roots. You can order nice plastic baskets from orchidbasket.com. My potting mix is approximately 70% small bark, 20% medium perlite, 5% charcoal and 5% hapuu and/or chunk peat moss or coir. Sphagnum moss works well, also.

Stanhopeas do best in cool to intermediate temperatures, but will easily tolerate 40-100°F. They will grow well in low to high light, but seem to bloom best in medium light. They are best a hanging plant, but seedlings grow well in pots under the bench, even with only indirect light.

As Spring turns warm, you can water nearly every bright day for best blooming in mid-to-late Summer. Frequent watering in early Spring and Summer is your key to blooming. Taper watering in the Fall. Some species, such as hernandezii, insignis, jenischiana, and martiana prefer a cool to cold and dry Winter.

Fertilize with 30-10-10 or similar every 2 weeks April-October, less in other seasons. Repotting is necessary every year for fast-growing seedlings, but a mature plant in a basket can wait 2-3 years if it is doing well. If new growths poke out through the basket, you can just cut the wire around them and include it inside the new basket.

The one drawback is that flowers only last 5-7 days, which is why so few are awarded. But you'll know they're there!! No other orchid has such pleasantly powerful fragrances, and some continue to perfume the air at night. Stan. connata smells like narcissus, panamensis like wintergreen, jenischiana is vanilla, oculata 'Chocolate Mint' speaks for itself, while tricornis and reichenbachiana have the marvelous fragrance of the Naked Lady Lily. A big plant will bloom for 2-4 months, one spike after another.

Pests are unusual, except that Stanhopeas seem quite susceptible to mites. If you start seeing multiple small spots on the leaves spray with a good miticide (Pentac, Mavrik or Talstar), 3 applications 7-10 days apart. Stanhopeas aren't fussy, and you'll love 'em!



Stan. inodora 'Crownpoint' AM/AOS
Doug Pulley, MD, Orchids

Doug Pulley, M.D. Orchids, 245 Vista Del Monte, Los Gatos, CA 95030-6342, Phone 408/399-3123, Fax: 408/395-1182, E-mail: dpulley1@comcast.net, Website: dpulleyorchids.com



Epidendrum Floribundum
Carol Easton

Treasurer's Report June, 2005



Checkbook Balance on June 1	\$8,403.12
June income	661.00
June expense	(1,038.45)
Checkbook Balance on June 31	\$8,025.67
CD balance on June 15 was	\$7,708.25

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.

Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to:

**Carmel Orchid Society—Membership
P. O. Box 2454, Monterey, CA 93942**

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter via E-Mail	Receive Newsletter via US Mail
Single	\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

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, August 1, 2005 at 7:30pm
(First Monday of every month)
The First Presbyterian Church
501 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA
93940

Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2005, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of
Carolyn & Jeff Salmon.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at 7:00pm
(Second Tuesday of every month)
At the Lincoln Ave Presbyterian Church,
536 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA. For
more information, call (831) 375 6871.

OrchidFest 2005

October 1 - 2, 2005 10 AM to 5 PM
Admission: \$3.00, Sponsored by The
San Francisco Orchid Society, Hall of
Flowers, The San Francisco County Fair
Building
Info: SFOS HotLine: 415. 665.2468
or Jean Lee, 415. 665.6079
jeanleorchids@cs.com
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

Orchids in the Wine Country

October 14-16, 2005 10am to 5pm
Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country,
Rohnert Park, CA
Info: (707) 528-1671
www.sonomaorchids.com/show.htm

AOS Members Meeting

October 12-16, 2005 10am to 5pm
Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country,
Rohnert Park, CA
Info: (707) 528-1671
www.orchidweb.org/aos/events/
members.aspx

Seconds Sale & Open House Stony Point Ceramics

Our friend Marni Turkel is having a seconds sale and open house on September 24 , 2005; Saturday only, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2080 Llano Rd #1B, Santa Rosa.

Save at least 50% off the regular price on seconds (slightly flawed and irregular pieces), trials, discontinued colors and shapes, samples, old stock, and overstocked items. To make a trip to the pottery even more appealing, there is a 20% discount on all first quality work on hand.

Check her web site www.marniturkel.com.

Greenhouse Tour & Barbecue Signup Form

Greenhouse Tour: 10am-2pm
Barbecue: 3pm at Jim Nybakken's house
Yes! I will be attending the September 11th Greenhouse Tour and Barbecue. Please reserve the following for me:

_____ Members @ \$10.00 each \$ _____
_____ Guests @ \$15.00 each \$ _____
Total \$ _____

My preference for meals is:

_____ Beef tri-tips _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian entrees

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society, and mail them to : Pat Landee, 1037 Rodeo Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953, 831-655-9729, pat@pinotnoirs.com by **September 1, 2005**.



Orchid Growing Tips

Have you ever had a masdevallia commit suicide. The plant will look okay one day and literally the next day or two, you will see a circle of leaves around the plant and it looks very dead...I've read that you can literally pour hydrogen peroxide from the bottle directly on the base of the masdevallia.

This may avert it's planned suicide. Don't put the hydrogen peroxide in a spray bottle. It's exposure to air and light will change it to water before you get to use it since it is H2O2.

Here is a great way to display orchids that are on mounts in a greenhouse. You can make rounds out of half inch wire mesh. Wire the two ends together forming a cylinder. The key is to use a deep sea fishing hook with the ball bearings inside. This way when you hang the round from the roof, it will spin easily for watering etc.

When you read about orchids that are lithophytes, it means they grow on rocks. Since we are not growing them that way, you can add a little dolomite lime to your mix and they would like it. Paphs like a little lime also.

More and more of the cattleyas are starting to form flowers. Some appear to have very thick sheaths. What you'll find is that there is a double layer of tissue. If you'd like to assist the bud formation you can clip the very top and peel off the outer sheath. You can do this same procedure if the sheath is looking a little dry. Sometimes the buds will form anyway.

Here are a couple more orchid culture websites that I have found. One is www.sunbulb.com. They have an orchid culture center you can tap into for the more common genera. The other site is clanorchids.com. They have a more extensive culture list. I find it helpful to read culture tips from different sources. They don't all agree on the best way to grow orchids, so you'll find what ideas work for you.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

August Goodies Providers

Ellie Mamon is looking for Goodie Providers for the August meeting. Please contact her at 236-1207 if you can bring a goodie.



Brazilian Pen Pal

COS has received the following e-mail from Walber Antonio Leao da Cruz, Send her an e-mail at walber@stf.gov.br.

Hello,

I'm from Brasília, Brazil, affiliated to the Brasilia's Orchid Society (SOB in Portuguese).

I've a sister in law that is married to an American Navy lieutenant and has just moved to Monterrey. Probably I'll be visiting her soon and when I get there I'd like to know people who love orchids like me, so, from now, I'd like to contact people from Carmel Society by e-mail, know your preferences and talk about the possibility of exchanging plants.

My city is located in the Central Plateau of Brazil, in an altitude of 1000 meters. Our climate is dry the most part of the year, but rains a lot in the summer. The temperature goes from 10° C in the winter nights (now) to 35°C in the summer days (December to February) It's possible to grow here the most part of the species.

My favorite plants are the Cattleyas, specially the walkerianas and nobilior that are native in my region.

I'd like to meet people who want to talk by e-mail and change pictures and ideas about growing.



D & D Flowers

D & D Flowers is having a **huge inventory reduction sale** on August 13 and 14, 2005. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Half Moon Bay. Great prices on original divisions of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums and many more genera. Please bring your own boxes. Really good deals....Priced to sell. Will take cash or checks but not credit cards.

The greenhouse is located in Half Moon Bay, 1/3 mile east of Main Street. Just east of Spanish Village on Hwy 92 is a house and wood pile yard. Turn onto the street between the house and wood pile yard and go over the bridge. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you have any questions about the directions, please call Dennis Olivas at 925-969-1246.

Blooming Stanhopeas in Pots By Doug Pulley

We all know that Stanhopeas send their spikes downward through the potting mixture and bloom below the plant. After years of blooming and breeding Stanhopeas I have been able to trick them into blooming in pots, but it does take some watchfulness and a little work. This is the way I bloom most of my seedlings before I decide if they are worth keeping and making a basket for them, since I have limited space.

Starting in May you need to clear the mix from the mature front bulb and take a peek under the bulb about every two weeks. When you see the spike starting to grow downward (photo #1), place a piece of plastic nursery stake, groove down, under the spike directing it to the edge of the pot. Take care not to bruise the spike, as it may abort if you do.

As the spike grows it will stay in the groove (photo #2). You will probably have to cut out a notch from the edge of the pot (photo #3) to allow the spike a somewhat downward direction, even though we are changing its direction. Sometimes this will need to be a "window" in the side of the pot if you discover the spike when it

is already well below the bulb. You can take the whole plant out of the pot while cutting out this window if necessary; the roots usually stay compact enough to reinsert the plant into the pot. When the spike is at least one-half inch beyond the edge of the pot, you can remove the plant stake (photo #4).

The spike will turn directly downward as soon as you allow it. When it reaches the stage shown in (photo #5) you will have to give it room to grow down, either by placing the pot at the edge of the bench or hanging it, because the blooms will come fully below the pot. The plant in bloom makes a unique gift to put on a mantel or table edge while it shows off its beauty and perfumes the room.

