



# The Backbulb

[www.carmelorchidsociety.com](http://www.carmelorchidsociety.com)

The Carmel Orchid Society

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January 2006

## January Speaker William Mathis, PH.D.

Speaking this month will be Dr. William Mathis from The Wild Orchid Company Doylestown, Pa. His topic will be "Terrestrial Orchids".

Bill became interested in native terrestrial orchids in 1970 as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas. As a part of his masters program he conducted a series of ecological studies on 'Large Yellow Lady's Slipper' Orchids in Northwest Arkansas. After completing his MS degree in Botany, he moved to the Agronomy Dept and completed a Ph.D. At this point he accepted a job with a major agricultural company and worked as a research scientist and manager for 25

years. He maintained his interest in terrestrial orchids over the years and, in 2000, he set up a lab and started growing a number of species from seed, as well as buying seedlings and mature plants in an effort to accumulate large numbers of 'Showy' upland and wetland terrestrial orchids species.

In 2001, when it became apparent that early retirement was a reality, he started The Wild Orchid Company, focusing on the production and sales of a variety of terrestrial orchids (North American, European and Asian species) that are hardy in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, he is con-

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## In This Month's Backbulb

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## 2006 Annual Dues

Isn't it amazing how fast the time to pay your dues rolls around. Dues are required by January 1 and are delinquent if not paid by Mayfaire or the first weekend in May. Delinquent members will not be listed in the Annual Roster, printed in June.

If you joined the Society during the fourth quarter of 2005, your dues are paid for 2006.



## Phragmipedium Culture

The Phragmipedium (frag-meh-pee-dee-um) (commonly called "Phrag") is the South American Lady's Slipper orchid. This variety is very easy to grow in the home and is among the longest blooming of any orchid type. Phrags will produce flowers sequentially (one to two at a time) for a period of 3-9 months or more. Each individual bloom lasts 2-3 weeks. When expiring, they often fall off the stem in relatively good condition. Don't be dismayed, another bud is ready to bloom right behind it! When the bloom stem has completely finished producing flowers simply cut it off at the point where it emerged from the leaves. Your next bloom stem will emerge from the new growth of leaves that developed during the previous blooming period.

**LIGHT:** Phrags like fairly bright light levels. Correct light can be achieved by placing them where they receive direct morning sun from an east window or bright, somewhat indirect sun from the west or south exposure. During the months of May through September, Phrags can be grown outdoors in a mostly shaded area, always avoiding direct, hot sun.



Lady Slipper "Hilda"  
William Mathis  
Wild Orchid Company

**TEMPERATURE:** These plants are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures. When growing indoors or outdoors, a range of 50° at night to 70-90° daytime is tolerable. A good rule of thumb is, if it's comfortable to you, it's comfortable for the plant. Keep in mind that the cooler temperature range will slow the rate of growth.

**WATER:** The easiest part about growing Phrags is the watering. They like to be kept fairly moist. One way of achieving this is placing them in a small saucer of water. When the saucer is completely dry it's time to water again. They will tolerate some dryness periodically, but not for a long period of time.

**HUMIDITY:** The Phrags love humidity along with their wet feet. Ideal humidity is 60-80 percent. When growing outdoors the humidity is usually quite adequate, here in Wisconsin. Indoors, proper humidity can be achieved by placing plants on a humidity tray, misting in the morning, and grouping plants together.

**FERTILIZER:** Phragmipediums are known for their constantly vigorous growth and extensive blooming period. Therefore, a regular fertilizing schedule is needed. We recommend using a 20-20-20 diluted 1 tsp. to a gallon of water.

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Lc. Netrasiri  
 'Black Prince'  
 From the Christmas 2005 Party  
 Plant Table

## Treasurer's Report October, 2005



|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Checkbook Balance on Oct 1  | <b>\$7,820.89</b> |
| Oct Income                  | 251.00            |
| Oct Expense                 | (1,735.00)        |
| Checkbook Balance on Oct 31 | <b>\$6,336.07</b> |
| <br>                        |                   |
| CD balance on Oct 15 was    | <b>\$7,774.17</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.*

## 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**

|                        |                                  |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Membership Type</b> | 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

#### Next Regular Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 2, 2006 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, January 16, 2006, at 7:30pm  
The meeting will be held at the home of Pat Landee.

#### Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 7:00pm  
(Second Tuesday of every month)  
At the Lincoln Ave Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA. For more information, call (831) 663-3953.

#### Pacific Orchid Exposition 2006

Feb 17-19, 2006  
Fort Mason, San Francisco  
Annual San Francisco Orchid Society Show & Sale. Preview event, the evening of Thursday Feb 16th.  
For more information contact: Dennis Westler, (510) 339-826; email: [denniswestler@aol.com](mailto:denniswestler@aol.com)

## Fordyce Orchids Closing

Fordyce Orchids will be Closing early next year, as the Orchid Ranch property is being sold. They will be having their final sale Jan.14 and 15th, 10 am to 5 pm. Lots of bargains in Cattleyas of all sizes, primarily hybrids. Call 925-447-1659 or visit [www.fordyceorchids.com](http://www.fordyceorchids.com) for more details.



The Peninsula Orchid Society

Annual Show and Sale  
Saturday and Sunday  
January 7-8, 2006  
10 am-5 pm

**JUNGLE FEVER!**

Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue  
Redwood City, CA

Admission: \$5 Adults  
\$3 Seniors, Disabled,  
Children 12-16  
Information: 650-361-8658  
<http://penorchidsoc.org>



Water Color by  
Dianna Gross





## Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

Most of our orchids love higher humidity levels that range between 60 and 80%. Our homes experience lowered humidity during the winter, caused by artificial heating and those cold sunny days when humidity is very low. You still can bring cymbidiums inside to enjoy their blooms. I just take them back outside every few days to get lots of fresh air.

There are lots of creative ways to provide extra humidity. Water containers in whatever form will do the trick. I even use a bundt cake pan for an extra special plant. That way the orchid is surrounded by a moat! Some of us have continued to keep our masdevallias and zygos outside, even during the cold spell. I tried taking some back into the greenhouse and they started dropping leaves. They really thrive on the constant fresh air movement and don't seem to mind the cold.

Remember slugs, snails, fungus and bacteria are thriving this time of year. So be vigilant with the bait and keeping your plants extra clean. Remember those orchids that are planted in spagnum moss need very little water now. That moss stays wet for a very long time--three weeks in a larger pot. If your plants have moss coating the top, it is probably thriving too. This helps hold in the excess moisture. I will gently pull the moss away from the base of the plant when I can. Sometimes it appears that the moss takes over, and the orchid may die. Remember if your cym spikes are mature, protect the plant from direct rainfall. You will keep the flowers from brown spotting that way. These are tips I have written before, but just a timely reminder.

Have a very Happy New Year.

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

## Happy Faces from the 2005 Christmas Party



## Goodies Providers

Goodies for the January meeting will be provided by the Board of directors.





Terrestrial Orchid Poster  
Available from AOS

*(Continued from page 2)*

Apply this every other watering. \*  
Remember: Water - Feed - Water -  
Feed!! Note: Mix your fertilizer ahead  
and store in a plastic container that can  
be labeled and capped (such as a used  
gallon milk jug). This ensures the  
solution is thoroughly diluted, at room  
temperature and is convenient to use.

**REPOTTING:** The key to continued  
success in growing Phrags is keeping the  
constantly wet media from becoming  
rotten. Mature plants should be repotted  
annually and preferably right after their  
flowering period. Seedlings can be  
repotted every 6-9 months. We  
recommend consulting your local grower  
for your repotting needs. If that is not  
possible, obtain a fir-bark orchid mix  
from your orchid supplier. When  
removing the plant from the pot, try to  
keep the root system from experiencing  
unnecessary disturbance. If the media  
happens to uncontrollably fall away from  
the roots, trim off any soft or rotted  
roots at this time. Select a pot just large  
enough to accommodate the remaining  
root mass. Add a handful of potting  
media to the bottom of the pot. Spread  
the roots over the medium and position  
the plant so the junction of the roots and  
plant will be buried at least 1/2 " below  
the media. Add the appropriate amount  
of media working it into the pot firmly  
with your fingers. For the next 4-6  
weeks do not let the pot stand in water,  
(but continue to keep the medium moist)  
and keep in a more shaded, warm,  
humid area.

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structing many raised garden beds dedi-  
cated to the vegetative production of up-  
land and wetland terrestrial orchid spe-  
cies.

Bill enjoys giving presentations to lo-  
cal Orchid Societies and Garden Clubs on  
various aspects of his work with terres-  
trial orchids. He especially enjoys the  
excitement of the typical outdoor gar-  
dener when they realize that orchids  
can be grown in their backyard without a  
greenhouse.