



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 49, Number 3

March 2006

March Speaker Gerardus B. Stall, Ph.D.

Our March speaker, Dr. Gerardus Staal is a retired entomologist, who has worked on the development of novel insect control agents such as Enstar (kinoprene, for whiteflies), Mavrik (fluvalinate, for many insects and mites), Altosid (methoprene, for mosquitos and flies) and Precor (hydroprene, for cockroaches). The orchid bug bit around 1975 and resulted in a second career in the growing, propagation, and hybridization of rare orchid species. The specialization soon shifted to cooler growing orchids (especially Pleurothallids, Odonts, Maxillarias, Epidendrums, Dendrobiums and lately also *Bulbophyllum*), and to the exclusion of

the more common commercial orchids such as *Phalaenopsis*, *Paphiopedilum* and *Cymbidium*, which have never been part of the program. The greenhouses are now being kept at 60° to 70°F with lower and higher extremes only occasionally and with high humidity through frequent watering and additional under bench misting above 75°F.

Gerardus has also been involved in several local orchid societies with a total of 5 presidential years in three of these and has been a member of the AOS Research Committee and a president of the Pleurothallid Alliance.

Dr. Stall, who last spoke to us in October of 2003, will speak on *Bulbophyllum*.

In This Month's Backbulb

March Speaker	page 1
New Membership Director	page 1
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Culture	page 2
Ask The Plant Doctor	page 3
Treasurer's Report	page 3
Membership application	page 3
Upcoming Events	page 4
Orchid Growing Tips	page 5
March Goodies	page 5
MayFaire 2006	page 6
MayFaire 2006 Hospitality	page 6

New Membership Director

Pat Landee has assumed the additional responsibility of Membership Director for the society. If you need assistance with membership issues, please contact her at (831) 655-9729 or e-mail pat@pinotnoirs.com.

If you have not paid your dues, please use the form on page three to renew.



Bulbophyllum Culture

Bulbophyllum (Bulbos) is a pantropical genus centered in southeast asia, spreading east to New Guinea and Australia, west through India, Africa into the tropical areas of the Americas, including the southern tip of Florida. The largest number of Bulbophyllums are found in the Far East. New Guinea has recorded over 700 distinct species within its borders.

GENERAL CONDITIONS - In our experience most Bulbos are in continual growth, except for a brief rest in the cool of the winter. They usually bloom on the matured new growth. If there is a peak bloom period it would probably be spring and early fall.

WATER, POTTING MEDIUM AND CONTAINERS - Bulbos prefer to be evenly moist, except a slight drying in the winter. During growth period, the Bulbos should be given heavy waterings, so they are never dry.

Because of the wet conditions loved by the Bulbos, fungus can be a problem. A monthly preventative spray of your favorite fungicide is desirable to ward off problems.

Good air movement is a must to keep leaf fungus down, because of the heavy watering regime.

Most *Buibophyllums*, including the *Cirrhopetalums*, are easier to grow mounted and to us present a more natural appearance. Most are rambling growers and resent being disturbed; however, they do not seem to mind an occassional clipping of a few unruly leads to keep them neat.

In growing most Bulbos, we have found sphagnum moss pads mounted on the back side of cork slabs to be an excellent growing method. The recurved shape of the cork retains more moisture in the moss pad, which the Bulbos love. We have found the easiest method is to tie the

plant with 6 lb test nylon fishing line. There are almost as many ways of mounting Bulbos as there are Bulbonuts.

After the plant has recovered from its self imposed pout and the new roots have gained a foothold, the nearly invisible fishing line can be removed. The fishing line does seem to injure the Bulbos, and is usually left in place. Other mounting materials are wood slabs, driftwood, cactus wood, tree fern (TF) plaques, TF pots, TF totems, and TF balls. Wood baskets with moss or osmunda pads are a close second choice.

If a potted Bulbo is your choice, they will enjoy any loose well drained media. The bulk of Bulbos have numerous short roots which do not penetrate the media deeply, so shallow media is a must to avoid root rots.

TEMPERATURE— The majority of Bulbos are comfortable in a temperature range of 45° F to 95° F. Some of the higher elevation Bulbos, such as those from the Himalayas and New

Guinean mountains prefer cool temperatures for part of the year and can be a little difficult in warmer areas.

LIGHT— Preferred light conditions are bright shade. If adjusted slowly, full morning sun up to noon is enjoyed by most Bulbos. If you can comfortably read a newspaper without squinting or straining to see then you have the right light.

FERTILIZER — Fertilization is simple - Bulbos love to eat. 1/4 strength at each watering is sure to keep them happy. We have found organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion, cow manure teas are enjoyed. The fertilizer formula should match the potting medium. We prefer non-urea based fertilizers at half strength. Non urea fertilizers provide 100% immediately available nitrogen, which urea based fertilizers do



Bulbophyllum fascinator

(Continued on page 4)



Ask the Plant Doctor

The Society has decided to start a new member service called "Ask The Plant Doctor" to answer questions about your orchids. There are three ways to get your question answered. Write it up and send to the Plant Doctor, Carmel Orchid Society, PO Box 2454, Monterey, CA 93942 or the quick way, via e-mail at

plantdoc@carmelorchidsociety.org. There is also a Plant Doctor page on the Web Site. And you can also bring your plant and question to our monthly meetings.

Questions and answers will also be posted to the web site.

Treasurer's Report January, 2005



Checkbook Balance on Jan 1	\$5,724.08
Jan Income	2,935.00
Jan Expense	(561.78)
Checkbook Balance on Jan 31	\$8,097.30
CD balance on Jan 15 was	\$7,823.25

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
1037 Rodeo Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953**

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

Next Regular Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 6, 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, March 20, 2006, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of Sharon and Ken Ashton.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 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.

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show

March 4-5, Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA.
Contact: Marilyn Bucher, PO Box 21, Pointe Area, CA 95468; (707) 882-2415; mbucher@mcn.org.

Malihini Orchid Society Show

March 10-12, Vallco Fashion Park, Cupertino, CA. Contact: Teresa Cho, 12336 Lolly Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070; (650) 941-1352; tmmcho@yahoo.com.

Five Cities Orchid Society Show

March 11-12, Arroyo Grande Regional Center, 800 West Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA. Contact: Eric Holenda, 1690 Primavera Ln., Nipomo, CA 93444; (805) 929-5749; cbh@charter.net.
Web Site: www.fcos.org

Santa Barbara Intl Orchid Show

March 24-26, Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA.
Contact: Sandra Svoboda, PO Box 5814, Santa Barbara, CA 93150; (805) 969-5746; sborchid@west.net.

Napa Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale

March 25-26, Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa, CA. Contact: Fredia Lloyd, (707) 255-6233; fredialloyd@aol.com.

California Orchids Spring Sale

Saturday April 8th

9am - 4pm

We'll have a great variety of healthy Species and Hybrids for sale!

Special sale prices on selected items!

Shade garden Calanthes from Japan!

Seedlings to Specimens

Supplies!

(415) 868-0203

www.californiaorchids.com

mnisbet@pacbell.net

[email or call for directions](#)

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show

March 31-April 2, Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave. Suite B2, San Jose, CA. Contact: Tim Culbertson, 1357 Phelps Ave. #4, San Jose, CA 95117; (301) 641-2556; twculber@hotmail.com.

(Continued from page 2)

not. We recommend Grow More fertilizers, which also has micro nutrients, to provide strength for the new growth, as well as support for the flowers. If you use the urea, salt based fertilizers ensure no salt residue are left in the roots. Always flush, with clear water, monthly to protect the short tender roots from fertilizer burn.

PESTS — While not insect resistant, bulbos seem to rarely be bothered by insects other than an occasional scale or mealy bug infestation, which can be easily handled by a 70% isopropyl alcohol and soap drench, or your favorite insecticide.



Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

As I write this column, we are still in the throes of a cold snap. My orchids are not very happy. I brought my miltonias and masdevallias inside for a few days. The cymbidium flower spikes will survive above freezing and the plants themselves down to 28 degrees.

Keep all your plants well watered during such cold spells as they withstand the frosts better. You may notice how much colder our tap water is in the wintertime. If you water your orchids with too hot or cold water, you may shock the plants. As a water treat for some of my orchids I will water with warm water about 75 degrees.

As March approaches the sun will be noticeably higher in the sky and the days will feel longer. It is time to add shade cloth to your greenhouse or lath house to keep your plants from burning their leaves. Green leaves that becomes pale, then yellow, and ultimately burn are indicators of too much light. Many cymbidium spikes are either blooming or maturing at this time. Protect those flower spike from the rainfall. They tend to get that brown blight very easily, much like camellias. The slugs and snails LOVE those buds too.

Remember Ida's trick of wrapping a cotton ball below the flowers around the spike. They don't like to climb over the cotton.

It is time to begin fertilizing with a nitrogen fertilizer again. I have begun with a weak, maybe quarter strength solution of 20-20-20 to get my plants accustomed to

this feeding regimen. There are a couple nice websites to investigate with lots of orchid culture information.

www.orchidsonline.com.au is excellent.

Another site is at merklesorchids.com.

Click on orchid culture and you will see 3 good articles there, One on nutrient absorption, another on Calanthe orchids and how to build a Disa orchid growing tray. Not so easy since they live in swampy environs.

The Carmel Orchid Society website has a compilation of all the various orchid growing tips I have previously shared with you, neatly organized, so you can find answers to your orchid questions.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

March Goodies Providers

Goodies for the March meeting will be provided by:

- Heidi Burch
- Evelyne Anzini
- Lori Siegmund
- Joanie Linares
- Marilyn Uribe





MAYFAIRE 2006 ON THE HORIZON

The Carmel Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show and Sale will be held on May 6th and May 7th 2006 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 May Faire 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 20 vendors signed up to participate in the MayFaire, a record number. The vendor booths were quickly filled after sending 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, May 5th 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 7th at 4:30 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.

MAYFAIRE 2006 HOSPITALITY MAKES IT SPECIAL

The growers and volunteers are always delighted by the wonderful feast which our COS members provide during the MayFaire. 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 March & April COS meetings. 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 dishes.

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!



Bulbo Corolliferum Var Atropurpureum