

The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 49, Number 4

April 2006

April Speaker Dan Newman

My first successful orchid was a *Dendrobium* hybrid bought as a small seedling on a vacation to Hawaii in 1982. It prospered in a sunny window in my San Francisco apartment, and a few years later, rewarded me with a spike of several beautiful and long-lasting purple flowers. That initial success encouraged me to start learning more about orchids and gradually acquiring more plants. I joined the American Orchid Society and San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987, which greatly increased the rates of both learning and plant acquisition!

Through the SFOS, I became acquainted with a number of accomplished growers

and collectors, including my friend and orchid mentor, Walter Teague. When I met Walter, he had recently retired from a career with PanAm. Born in Ecuador and educated in the U.S., Walter was familiar with the Andean orchids from childhood, and made frequent visits to Ecuador. His job with PanAm took him to many orchid-rich habitats, and he traveled independently to others off the PanAm route. In the days before CITES, Walter was able to bring orchids home from his travels with few restrictions, and I was amazed by the diverse collection of species he maintained in his backyard greenhouse.

By 1996, my apartment had

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May Faire - Opportunity for All!

Our annual May Faire extravaganza is the major event of the Carmel Orchid Society. The money generated by May Faire supports other society activities such as the Greenhouse Tour, Christmas Party, and the monthly speakers.

We need for all our members to help make May Faire a success by volunteering wherever you can. There will be sign-up sheets at the April meeting or you can call Ida Hale, 646-8724 or via email imaryhale@aol.com to sign-up.



Dendrobiums Culture

Editor's Note: This is one of several culture sheets on Dendrobiums. The November, 2004 Backbulb, available in the online archive, has more detailed data.

The Spray Orchid

Dendrobiums, den-DROH-bee-um, are among the most commonly encountered orchids in the retail trade. Like most other cultivated orchids, dendrobiums are epiphytes, or air plants. They have well-developed water-storage organs (pseudobulbs), often called "canes" for their upright, leafy appearance. They should be potted in porous, free-draining media. There are many different types of dendrobiums available to the special-ist grower. However, hybrids involving *Den. phalaenopsis* are what you will most often encounter.

LIGHT Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production. Provide Bright light, to 50 percent sun. In the home, an east, west or lightly shaded south window. In a greenhouse, about 30 to 50 percent of full sun. Under lights, four 40 watt fluorescent tubes and two 40 watt in-candescent bulbs directly over plants. Plants should be naturally erect, with-out need of (much) staking, and of a medium olive-green color.

TEMPERATURE Mature plants need a 15° to 20° F difference between night and day. Nights of 60° to 65° F;

days of 80° to 90° F. Temperatures up to 95° to 100° F are beneficial if humidity and air circulation are increased. Low temperatures (below 50° F) may cause leaf drop.



Dendrobium lindleyi

WATER Keep evenly moist while in active growth. Allow to dry between watering after growth is mature (indicated by terminal leaf).

HUMIDITY Dendrobiums need 50 to 60 percent. In the home, place on trays over moistened pebbles. In greenhouse, use a humidifier if conditions are too dry.

FERTILIZER Should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period. The exact fertilizer you use will depend on the mix in which your plant is

growing. A good general rule is to apply a balanced (10-10-10, 12-12-12, or similar ratio) fertilizer "weakly, weekly" during the period of active growth. That is, fertilize every week at one quarter to one half of the recommended dilution.

POTTING Should be done every two to three years before mix loses consistency (breaks down). Pot firmly in medium, giving aeration and ample drainage, allowing enough room for two years' growth. Dendrobiums grow best in pots small for the size of the plant.



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 February, 2005



Checkbook Balance on Feb 1	\$8,097.30
Feb Income	1,331.00
Feb Expense	(350.00)
Checkbook Balance on Feb 28	\$9,078.30
CD balance on Feb 15 was	\$7,841.46

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, April 3, 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, April 17, 2006, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of Sharon and Ken Ashton.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 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.

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; For more information email: twculber@hotmail.com.

California Orchids Spring Sale

April 8th, 9am to 4pm.
Special sale prices on selected items!
Shade garden Calanthes from Japan!
Seedlings to Specimens and Supplies!
Info: 415.868.0203
Email: mnisbet@pacbell.net
Website: www.californiaorchids.com

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show and Sale

April 22, 10 AM – 4 PM, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. For more information, visit the new GCCG website at <http://www.geocities.com/goldcoastcymbidiumgrowers> and see the above news items.

Planning on Selling Plats at May Faire

Planning on selling orchids at May Faire, you need to pick up sales tags at the April meeting. If you are not able to make the meeting, call Ida Hale, at 646-8724 to arrange for a pick-up.

(Continued from The Big Display, page 6)

Members must pick up their plants promptly at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 7th 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 assisting with clean up. Many hands make light work for all! See you there!

(Continued from Dan Newman Bio, page 1)

been transformed into an orchidarium, and I into an orchid slave. When I learned of a small commercial greenhouse for rent in San Francisco, I seized the opportunity to move my collection to more spacious quarters. Walter moved his plants in too, and I took over his collection a few years later. I started my nursery, Hanging Gardens, in 1999, while I was still working as a project administrator for Bechtel Corporation. I was laid off in spring of 2000, when Bechtel began transferring its project work to offices in other parts of the country. Since then, I have been growing orchids full-time.

A few years ago, I moved my nursery to a larger greenhouse in Pacifica. I grow species of all kinds, but Dendrobium is still one of my favorite genera. In coastal California, I can't maintain the year-round hot conditions needed by the lowland equatorial species, but the genus also contains a wealth of magnificent species from the equatorial highlands and seasonal habitats further from the equator, which grow well in intermediate to cooler conditions. These "Cool Dendrobiums" will be the subject of my presentation.



Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

It is officially spring! Orchids are already in spike plus a few blooms in my greenhouse. My focus will be on repotting those unhappy orchids that I have previously neglected. Remember there are lots of repotting tips on our Orchid Society website. I have many orchids where the moss has grown in their pot to the extent that it is choking the vitality out of the orchid. It may look pretty, but get rid of it or at least pull it away from the orchid itself. Otherwise you may end up with dead orchids and living moss.

There is one suggestion out there that encourages foliar washing of your orchids when you water them.

Especially your larger plants where the leaves may receive less water. On orchids growing in a very healthy state, they begin to secrete excess sugar onto their leaves that do not need to use for their own nourishment. This excess sugar becomes a fertile ground for various bacteria and fungi to grow. So wash off those leaves and perhaps use Ivory soap in the process every so often.

When Dr Staal spoke at our March meeting, I asked him what really controls mealy bugs, because the pure alcohol wasn't doing it for me. They would always reappear a week later when I was looking over my phalinopsis plants for example. He told me a product called Orthene. I couldn't find it locally. I purchased mine from EBAY. It has an unpleasant odor and is toxic. So be very careful and wear gloves etc.

Whether you grow orchids in your

home or a greenhouse, remember as we move into warmer temps, the humidity goes down. And these orchids love humidity. Sixty to seventy percent is a good average. At this time you can start fertilizing your cymbidiums with a high nitrogen fertilizer. When they are finished blooming, repot those who don't have room in the pot for the new growths. Again, lots of tips on the website for your reference.

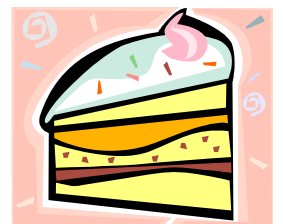
There are some good orchid forums on the web. One is at www.theorchidsource.com. Another is www.gardenweb.com. That forum is excellent for a wide range of topics, but has an orchid section as well.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

April Goodies Providers

Goodies for the April meeting will be provided by:

- Frances Richardson
- Susan Phillips
- Elizabeth Coelho
- Diane Segelbacher
- Ellie Mamon



(Continued from Selling Orchids at May Faire, page 6)

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.



Selling Orchids at May Faire 2006

Members of the Carmel Orchids Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. **The first requirement for selling plants is that you must be a Mayfaire Volunteer.** Sign-up at the March meeting or call Ida Hale, 646-8724. 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.
3. **Bring the plants on Friday afternoon, May 5th 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 the sales table as space is available.
4. **Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 7th 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 – pedigree – 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.

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The Big Display May Faire 2006

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, May 5th** . The show opens at 9am on Saturday morning, May 6th 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 7th** .

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.**

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