



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

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May 2006

May Meeting Topic Getting Your Plants Ready for May Faire

Members of the COS may sell and show their orchids at May Faire. If selling, remember that a portion of each sale goes to the society, one of our big fund raisers.

One of the major attractions at the May Faire 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 May Faire is famous, we need your contributions!

Plants, which are presented for sale or show, must be disease and pest-free and attractive.

If you have questions about the Sales Table call Peggy Purchase, Sale Organizer, at 624-8442.

If you have questions about showing or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up or call Ida Hale, at 646-8724.

At the May meeting we show you how to get your plants ready and show them to best effect.

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2006 COS Roster And Dues

The 2006 Carmel Orchid Society Roster will be distributed at the Birthday Party, our June meeting. This year we are including a picture of each member in the Roster. There is a draft available for review at the May meeting and at May Faire. Be sure to check and see if we have your picture. We will be taking pictures at the May meeting at May Faire.

And this final reminder, if you have not paid your dues by May Faire, you will **NOT** be included in the 2006 Roster!

New Date For July Meeting

July 10, 2006



Catasetum and Stanhopeas Culture

This fantastic group offers a tremendous variety of flower forms and colors to the orchid fancier. Native from Mexico to Peru in the American tropics, the more than 100 species offer serious orchidists and taxonomists a tremendous challenge in distinguishing one from another. Interestingly, male flowers of species are equipped with an antenna-like trigger device which is attached to the column. When irritated or bumped by a curious, unsuspecting insect visitor, it fires the pollen-charged anther cap onto the insect's body, where it adheres. This is one of the most unique developments among species of this highly evolved family -- the orchids.

Catasetum flowers are usually either male or female; seldom are they perfect, i.e. hermaphroditic. Since flowers of the two sexes from the same species are significantly different, there has been considerable confusion regarding taxonomy in the genus. As interest increases in these exciting types, it is expected that even more effort will be devoted to clarifying these matters.

The following cultural instructions are intended as a guide only; specific information can be obtained from the Recommended Reading list or from evidence obtained in the areas where the plants are native. This general cultural information may be applied to Catasetum, Coryanthes, Cycnoches, Gongora, Mormodes, Stanhopea, and their hybrids. Exceptions for Coryanthes and Stanhopea are outlined in the final paragraph.

GENERAL CONDITIONS Catasetums produce fattened, fleshy pseudobulbs and are deciduous. These characteristics suggest that attention must be given to watering practices and a dormancy requirement. The plants grown here require year 'round warm house conditions with good air circulation.

TEMPERATURE The plants can be grown

at 75°-80°F during the day, with temperatures falling to 60°-70°F at night. Dormancy will occur in response to changes in day length, usually in the fall, and soon after flowering; temperatures need not be altered to induce or treat dormancy.

LIGHT Catasetums can be grown with as much light as for cattleyas or as little as for phalaenopsis. However, growth is most vigorous under the brighter conditions and the heavier bulbs produced are capable of yielding more substantial inflorescences of better quality blooms. Generally, female flowers are produced in bright light; in some cases, near full sun conditions may be required to obtain this response. As the plants complete their flowering cycle, they will lose their foliage and require less light.

POTTING MEDIA, CONTAINERS, WATER, FERTILIZER Plant catasetums in a well-drained medium, e.g. New Zealand sphagnum moss, tree fern, etc., and in a container which encourages good drainage; orchid pots or wood slat baskets have proven effective. Repotting should ideally be done just as the plants are making growth, usually spring. Watering may become more regular and heavier as growth increases, producing more roots to satisfy the plants' needs. These adjustments are made as days become longer, brighter and warmer, resulting in heavy growth which will maximize potential for flower production in the fall.

Of course, as the plant uses more water, it can also use more fertilizer, preferably 20-20-20 at the rate of one teaspoon/gallon of water applied as frequently as once each week. The fertilizer formula should match the potting medium. Use 20-20-20 with tree fern, charcoal, or various inorganic aggregates, but use 30-10-10 with fir bark. We recommend non-urea based fertilizers at

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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 March, 2005



Checkbook Balance on Mar 1	\$9,078.30
Mar Income	2,503.00
Mar Expense	(653.65)
Checkbook Balance on Mar 28	\$10,927.65
CD balance on Mar 15 was	\$7,864.02

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, May 1, 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, May 15, 2006, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of Shirley and Peter West.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 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.

Carmel Orchid Society Birthday Party will be held at the regular June meeting.

COS July Meeting Date Change

Monday, July 10, 2006 at 7:30pm. The First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940.

COS Annual Greenhouse Tour

The Greenhouse Tour is being planned for September 10, 2006. More details to follow.

Express Orchid Exhibition

Wine Tasting, Orchid Sales, Culinary Sampling. June 3 & 4, 2006 9 am to 5 pm. Info call 1-800-731-9995.

Lost & Found

A jacket was found after the April meeting. Whoever left their jacket can claim it from Ida Hale. Call her at 646-8724.

(Continued from Catasetum & Stanhopea on page 2)

half strength. Non urea fertilizers provide 100% immediately available nitrogen, which urea based fertilizers do not. We recommend Grow Mor fertilizers, which also have micro nutrients. The micro nutrients provide strength for the new growth and support for the flowers.

Plants need not be unpotted and dried out after flowering; however, do withhold water from plants in containers until growth begins in spring.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL Catasetum foliage is susceptible to spider mite infestation. Watch the thin, soft leaves carefully for symptoms of their presence, being quick to eliminate problems as they occur; use a miticide, at the recommended dilution.

If rot should develop in catasetum bulbs, cut away the affected area or bulb, treating the cut surface with Captan, Dithane M45 or Banrot paste; do not water until the problem is arrested.

TIPS When you receive the plant, please remove all packing material carefully. Water the plant thoroughly and place it in a bright location with good humidity but out of drafts.

As catasetum spikes become 4"-6" long, begin careful staking which may be helpful in encouraging good flower arrangement on the developing inflorescence. Be certain to leave the plant facing the same direction during inflorescence development. Do not probe the male flowers at any time, for these may be accidentally emasculated, causing them to fold prematurely.

NOTES FOR STANHOPEA, CORYANTHES, AND GONGORA While these three genera are from another tribe, their culture is nearly the same as that of catasetums. These all produce basal inflorescences and therefore give best results when grown in wood slat or wire baskets, permitting the spike to emerge below. All will do well in intermediate conditions, although warmer conditions should cause no harm; light intensity may be best as for phalaenopsis. Plants are evergreen to partly deciduous and may benefit from a brief period of dormancy, i.e. little water when growth is complete.

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Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

As I write Hopefully we are coming to the end of our rainy season. The warm weather to come should spur our orchids into robust new growth. Time to fertilize with a higher nitrogen fertilizer to ensure mature new growths for fall blooms. Slugs and snails have been thriving in all this cool, moist weather. I prefer to use the granulated forms of bait for my orchids. The more common pelletized baits are made with a meal. This meal tends to mold. That mold is not healthy for our cymbidiums or other plants. If you don't have pets, the baits with 7.5% metaldehyde are most effective.

Repotting season is here, especially for those cymbidiums that have finished blooming. There are lots of hints available on the Carmel Orchid Society website. Remember you can save some of the backbulbs to start new plants too. A note on cymbidium mixes. What you decide to use will depend on where you live. In areas with cool summers like Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, I would recommend a mix with primarily medium bark. I always augment that with material that won't rot, like charcoal, perlite and small lava rock with peanuts at the bottom. In warmer summer areas like Carmel Valley, I recommend a fine bark mix with the perlite and charcoal and even horticultural wool if you can find it. I even combine equal parts of med and fine bark in Monterey's climate. So be flexible and look at your climate and how much you like to water your cym.

Are you noticing more black or brown spotting on your orchid leaves? This cool,

wet weather has not helped matters any. It has been very favorable for all these bacterial and fungal infections appearing on the leaves of our orchids. Many growers recommend a product called Physan 20 to control these infections. I have used this product myself and it seems to help. Getting plants ready for our upcoming May Faire? If you don't want to purchase leaf shine and excellent substitute is milk, preferable whole milk. I don't recommend the oily leaf shines. The leaves can't breathe.

See you at the May Faire!

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

May Goodies Providers

Goodies for the May meeting will be provided by:

- Bill Hale
- Susan Jones
- Jeannette Brown
- Kazuko Mockett



Thanks for supporting your society and a special thanks to Ellie Mamon, our Hospitality Chair, for her special dedication.



MAY FAIRE 2006 IS HERE!

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 May Faire, 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 May Faire. 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.

MAY FAIRE 2006 STILL TIME TO HELP!

The growers and volunteers are always delighted by the wonderful feast which our COS members provide during the May Faire. 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!

(Continued from Catasetum & Stanhopea on page 4)

RECOMMENDED READING

- All About Orchids, by Charles Marden Fitch
- Encyclopedia of Cultivated Orchids, by Alex D. Hawkes
- Home Orchid Growing, by Rebecca Northen
- Orchid Care, by Walter Richter
- Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchid Species, by Alec Pridgeon

Culture Sheet courtesy [CLAN Tropicals](#).