



# The Backbulb

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

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 49, Number 6

June 2006

## Birthday Party!

It's time for the annual Society Birthday Party. If you haven't done so already, please RSVP by Friday, June 1, 2006! Lori Siegmund is the chairperson for this year's Birthday Party. She can be contacted as follows:

Phone: 662-8151 or Email: [lori.siegmund@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lori.siegmund@sbcglobal.net)

Members are asked to sign up for bringing one of the following types of dishes:

- Appetizer
- Salad
- Main Course
- Vegetable Side Dish/other
- Side Dish

The dish should serve eight people. Please bring necessary and appropriate serving utensils for your dish.

- The Society will provide beverages and dessert.
- Please plan on arriving between 6-6:30PM and bring your dish to the kitchen area. If you are bringing appetizers please plan on arriving at 6PM.
- Appetizers will be served between 6-6:30PM. We plan on starting the seating and potluck meal between 6:30-6:45PM.
- Each COS member is welcome to bring 1-2 guests to the potluck. We will provide name tags when you check in and this will make it easier for members and guests to know who is who and remember those names!

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## Save the Date! Greenhouse Tour is Coming

This year the Greenhouse Tour will be on Sunday, September 10th. We will be visiting local commercial greenhouses. There will be a Bar-B-Que following the tour. More details to follow.

## New Date For July Meeting

**July 10, 2006**



## Dendrochilum Culture

The renowned botanist C. L. Blume first described this particular genus in 1825. Its name is derived from the Greek words dendros meaning tree & refers to its epiphytic habit, & cheilos which means lip & refers to the lip of the flower. Dendrochilums, which are epiphytic by nature, are native to Indonesia & can be found in Burma, New Guinea, Java, the Philippines, & Borneo & most of their neighbouring islands.

These plants tend to grow in clumps, with a single leaf on top of each pseudobulb. The flowers are small & neatly arranged alternately, along a thin threadlike stem, in many ways resembling a chain, hence them being referred to as the "Chain Orchid".

**LIGHT** These plants will do best in moderate light, around 50% shade on the brightest days & shouldn't get direct sunlight particularly during the summer months, as their leaves will burn readily.

**TEMPERATURE** Dendrochilum like an intermediate to warm temperature range & shouldn't drop below about 80° F during the winter months for their best performance. During the hotter months as the temperature levels rise so should the humidity level be increased.

**WATER** Keep these plants moist, & don't allow them to quite dry out completely in between watering. During the winter months they will only need to be watered every week or so. Watch that at this time of year that the media doesn't become sodden, as this is likely to set off rotting in the roots. During the warmer months you will need to water every couple of days, just be sure the media never gets completely dry before the next watering.

**AIR MOVEMENT** As with most orchids these plants appreciate a gentle air circulation around them. The air movement aids greatly transpiration of the leaves during hot weather, thus helps with the cooling of the plant. Air movement during cooler weather also helps prevent rots setting in due to humid still conditions, but they don't appreciate strong draughts.

**FERTILIZER** After flowering has finished, a weak feed of a high Nitrogen fertilizer every second watering will help to produce strong new pseudobulbs. As the pseudobulbs start to mature a half strength potash type food such as "Phostrogen" will benefit the flowering. Once the pseudobulbs have matured the



Dendrochilum magnum



## 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, 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 April, 2005



Checkbook Balance on Apr 1	<b>\$10,927.65</b>
Apr Income	879.00
Apr Expense	(978.49)
Checkbook Balance on Apr 28	<b>\$10,828.16</b>
CD balance on Apr 15 was	<b>\$7,889.07</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  
1037 Rodeo Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953**

<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

### Next Regular Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 5, 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, June 19, 2006, at 7:30pm  
The meeting will be held at the home of Ken and Sharon Ashton.

### Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 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.

### Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

July 7-9, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. Fri and Sat: 9 AM – 5 PM; Sun: 10 AM – 4 PM. Admission FREE, Parking \$5. For information, visit the website: [www.orchidfair.com](http://www.orchidfair.com).

*(Continued from Catasetum & Stanhopea on page 2)*

feeding can be held off for about six weeks as the plant will have a bit of a rest period, watering however should be kept up as needed.

**POTTING** Dendrochilums don't like to be repotted too frequently, so ideally even three years or so is ample. They are however, very sensitive to their media decomposing & will suffer rapidly. If you see signs of this, tip them out & clean up the roots by removing, carefully, all the old mix & then repot into a pot that is just big enough for the next couple of years growth. A fine bark mix is best as it allows free drainage & air movement, while supporting the plant well.

### [Macara Orchids](http://www.geocities.com/macaraorchids/DendrochilumCulture.html)

2 Macara Street

Masterton, New Zealand.

<http://www.geocities.com/macaraorchids/DendrochilumCulture.html>

## Hybrid List (Know Your Web Site)

Have you checked the Society [website](http://www.carmelorchidsociety.com) lately?

In the Reference Section, we now have a list of almost 700 hybrids including Hybrid Name, Abbreviation, Subtribe and their Parent Genera. Here's an example:

Hybrid Name: Alexanderara

Abbreviation: Alxra.

Subtribe: Oncidiinae

Parent Genera: Brassia x Cochlioda x Odonoglossum x Oncidium

Also, if you don't find the hybrid you're looking for in the list, let us know and we'll research it and get it added to the list.



## Orchid Growing Tips

*By Carolyn Salmon*

When you have a lot of orchids kept in close proximity to each other, insects and infections spread much more rapidly. Good hygiene becomes that much more important to the overall health of your plants. I get too many brown and black spots on my leaves so you are not alone in your frustration. Insects, frogs, and even water splashes and our hands can spread bacteria and fungi very quickly.

Want to know if your infection is bacterial or fungal? Bacterial infections smell and fungal do not. The ultimate in hygiene is to use disposable razor blades to trim your plants and disposable latex gloves that you throw away after trimming each plant. Well, I am not there yet myself.

But one easy solution is to flame our cutting tools and for our hands, use hand sanitizing gel. Studies have shown this gel to be very effective, just as if you had thoroughly washed your hands with traditional soap.

I have learned of a new, very expensive product to use in the war against mealy bugs. Dennis Olivas, an AOS judge and owner of D&D Orchids of Half Moon Bay, spoke at the Monterey Bay Orchid Society in Salinas earlier this month. The product he uses in combination with Orthene is called Enstar II. It costs \$100.00 for 5 oz, but is highly concentrated, so you can share a bottle with a friend. You can find it at a website called [rosecare.com](http://rosecare.com). This is a hormone that interrupts the reproductive life cycle of the mealy bug and will not allow their eggs to

hatch. Orthene only kills the adults.

Previously, I have told you about various orchid mixes, including diatomic rock, neat stuff to use in combination with other mediums. Dennis did tell us that if you use it alone, it will in fact kill your plants. Good to know....

Remember to check out our website for lots of orchid growing tips organized into convenient categories for easy use. You can also email me or the plant doctor at our website as well.

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

## May Goodies Providers

Goodies for the May meeting were provided by:

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

And they were very good!





## **Birthday Party Continued From Page 1**

- Please bring a label which identifies the name of your dish and list some of the main ingredients. This will assist our members who might have food allergies and those with certain dietary restrictions and/or preferences.
- Please label or mark any serving dishes and utensils you bring to the potluck with your name (or some other way you can identify what is yours) . We want to make sure it is returned to you!
- Beautiful blooming orchids will be raffled following the potluck.
- Members who volunteered at the May Faire will be recognized with a special gift!
- New membership roster (which includes pictures of most members!) will be distributed to all members who have paid their 2006 dues.
- We are in need of volunteers who can stay after the Birthday Party to help clean up. Please check in with Lori Siegmund or one of the other Board members when you arrive to let them know that you can stay and help with this. We appreciate your assistance!

## **Lost & Found**

A jacket found after the April meeting still has not been claimed.

A second jacket was left in the eating room at May Faire. Owners can claim their jackets from Ida Hale. Call her at 646-8724.

## **Join the Email Crowd!!**

Those of you that have email and choose snail mail ask, "Why should I choose email when it's so much easier to get it via snail mail"? Yes, exactly! Easier for you! It's certainly not easier for those who write and send out the Backbulb. Those people spend countless hours each month researching, writing, proofing, printing, folding, stuffing, addressing, and stamping. Just so you don't have to print your own Backbulb.

Okay — so what are the advantages to joining the Email Crowd? You're missing special emails to members about special Orchid Sales. Recently we had someone contact us and say they were getting rid of all their orchids. We sent out an email to the Email Crowd and they got over there and grabbed up the large orchids for \$15 each. They were all gone before the next Backbulb came out and all you Snail Mail people missed out!

Another advantage is that Orchid Growers contact us about their going out of business sales. We turn around and send email notices to the Email Crowd and they get to take advantage of the sales.

The Email Crowd receive notices about Orchid & Garden Shows and Tours in the area. They are always up to date on what's going on in the Orchid world.

The Email Crowd have their email addresses published in the Roster.

They get notified via email of changes or emergencies such as a meeting cancellation. And last, they get their Backbulb about three days earlier than the Snail Mail People. So—All of you with email, please join the email crowd.