



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 49, Number 7

July 2006

July Speaker Debra Atwood

My name is Debra Atwood, I am third generation Napa, and this is my sixth year as sole proprietor of Napa Valley Orchids.

After 30 years in Napa's hospitality industry I needed to make a lifestyle change, so at close to 50 years old, I thought it was time to follow my heart and pursue my passion for orchids.

I think of myself more as a farmer than a florist, as things like water, weather, fertilizing and taking my beauties to market are always on my mind.

There are many fun and interesting orchids that grow and bloom well in my 22 X 24 foot greenhouse, such as Angraecum, Aerangis, Bulbophyl-

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In This Month's Backbulb

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May Faire 2006

Our May Faire this year was a resounding success thanks to the efforts of Ida Hale, our May Faire Coordinator, and her group of faithful volunteers. To Ida and her team, I offer my sincere thanks for a job very well done.

May Faire is currently our only fund raiser and, as such, allows us to have several well qualified speakers throughout the year as well as our Christmas Party and Greenhouse Tour. These are all subsidized by the funds raised at the May Faire as are our Plant Raffles.

This year our Members' plant sale totaled \$2,565.00 which generated \$256.50 for the Society and our Bagged Bark Mix sales accounted for an additional \$509.00. Combined with the proceeds from vendor booth rental, our total income was in excess of \$5,500.00. Again, my heart felt thanks to Ida & Bill Hale and the many volunteers who make the Carmel Orchid Society what it is.

Ken Ashton, President

New Date For July Meeting

July 10, 2006



10 Rules for Basic Orchid Care

Debra Atwood, our speaker this month has a web site, www.napavalleyorchids.com, with many interesting features. Her "10 Rules for Basic Orchid Care" are a little different than we normally hear. I also thought that this might be inspire questions for her from the membership.

Editor

1. When in doubt, go drought
2. Whatever you do, do it before noon
3. Good air movement and light are just as important as water and fertilizer
4. Misting can result in more problems than benefits
5. Water once a week, mark it in your calendar, more in summer, less in winter
6. Fertilize weakly, weekly
7. Use temperate tap water / not from rock salt water softener / flush monthly
8. If leaf is warm to the touch, it is too much light
9. Sun changes seasonally, arrange you plants accordingly
10. Become an inspector / bi-weekly observation is key

Rule 5 had a link to additional watering help.

Many beginners have difficulty deciding when to water and when **NOT** to water. Below are some helpful suggestions to make this easier.

Water more when.....

- There is more light
- The temperature are higher
- The humidity is lower
- There is more air circulation
- The plants have thinner leaves
- The plant is mounted on a slab
- The plant is growing in a basket
- The plant is in a small pot (dries faster)
- The plant is in a clay pot (porous)

Water less when.....

- There is less light
- The temperatures are lower
- The humidity is higher
- There is less air circulation
- The plants have thicker leaves
- The plant is in a plastic pot
- The plant is in a large pot (holds more moisture)



Phrag sedenii roseum



Phal pulchura

Pictures from Debra Atwoods Web Site.
www.napavalleyorchids.com



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 May, 2005



| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Checkbook Balance on May 1 | \$10,828.16 |
| May Income | 5,306.80 |
| May Expense | (4,385.86) |
| Checkbook Balance on May 28 | \$11,749.10 |
| | |
| CD balance on May 15 was | \$7,913.39 |

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, July 10, 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, July 17, 2006, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of Carol and Bill Easton.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 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.

COS Annual Greenhouse Tour

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

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.



Paph Saintlow
Debra Atwood

Well Done For The Birthday Party Crew

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped with the planning, setup and cleanup of the June 5, 2006 Birthday Party Potluck. Several members and even their guests pitched in just before and after the event to help make lighter work for myself and the rest of the volunteers working on this annual event. I regret that I did not obtain everyone's name to mention you specifically. But please know that your efforts were noted and much appreciated!

Special thanks goes out to the following members who volunteered to work with me on making this event successful:

- Geva Arcanin
- Tom Bremser
- Elizabeth Coelho
- Carol Easton
- Ida Hale
- Joanie Linares
- Marilyn Uribe

And last but not least, a special thanks to all of my fellow COS Board members who advised and supported me through this effort. I couldn't have done it without you!

Lori Siegmund

COS Board Member and 2006 Birthday Party Coordinator



Piperia yadonii

Endangered Local Orchid

I don't know how many of you have driven in Pebble beach and seen all the little colored flags stuck in the forest,



Pebble Beach Flag Farm

wondering what they were for. (The Pebble Beach Company could not buy enough of one color. so we have colorful.) Well those little flags mark the location of *Piperia yadonii*, our local endangered orchid.



Piperia yadonii (Yadon's piperia) was first collected by Leroy Abrams in 1925 in open pine forest near Pacific Grove. Initially it was misidentified, not being recognized until 1990. It is named after Vernal Yadon, previous Director of the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove. Not a very big fellow, basal leaves are only a few inches across. Normally produces a single flowering stalk, 5 to 30 inches tall. There many flowers, only a few mm across. *Piperia yadonii* only occurs in a limited area of the Central Coast.

In 1998 the Fish & Wildlife Service classified it as endangered. If you would like to read the actual ruling visit <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/federalregister/1998/f980812.pdf>. NOAA has a Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program which has produced a very nice web site www.elkhornsloughctp.org with a lot of information about *Piperia yadonii*.





(Continued from July Speaker on page 1)

lum, Cochleanthes, Encyclia, Phrags, Brassia, Maxillaria and Phal species to name a few. I heat the greenhouse to the mid 50s in the winter and through venting and wetting down, try to keep it under 85 degrees in the hot Napa summer.

Teaching Orchid classes and leading workshops, as well as speaking to orchid societies and selling my plants at orchid shows and farmer's markets are just a few of the things I do in addition to greenhouse maintenance and consultation.

My friend Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids, just gave me his old computer. I haven't plugged it in yet, but it is my goal to have e-mail by next spring. Meanwhile, you can call me any time at 707-255-8266. And as always I offer free consultation on any orchid you bring to show me.

In addition to supplying the plant table for the raffle, Debra will be bringing additional plants and supplies for sale. Check her web site, www.napavalleyorchids.com, to see what she has available. If there is something specific you want, call her and she will bring it to the meeting.

Lost & Found

Ida says that if someone does not claim their jackets soon, they are going to look good in her closet.

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.

In Memoriam Margaret A. Scaroni

Margaret A. Scaroni a native of Santa Maria, who died Monday June 5, 2006 at a local convalescent hospital. She was 79. Margaret was a graduate of Santa Maria High School. She attended UC Berkeley and was a graduate of Heald's Business College. She later attended Cabrillo College, where she earned an associate degree in environmental science.

Mrs. Scaroni was also a longtime resident of Santa Cruz, where she worked for Pacific Bell and the Santa Cruz Public Library. She was a member of Holy Cross Church, the Santa Cruz Orchid Society, the American Orchid Society and the Carmel Orchid Society. She enjoyed gardening, knitting, quilting and traveling.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Herbert A. Scaroni of Santa Cruz; daughter Arlene P. Scaroni of Bartlesville, Okla.; sister Irene Cambell of Santa Maria; brothers, Ralph Foster of Santa Clara, and George Foster of Santa Cruz; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Her son, Warren D. Scaroni, died before her.

Contributions are preferred to American Cancer Society, 1595 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065 for pancreatic cancer research.

COS E-Mail Brigade

The COS Board of Directors are considering discontinuing snail mail copies of the Backbulb next year. You ask why in the world would they do that! That's easy — snail mail is costly, it's time consuming, and environmentally bad.

Frequently the email Backbulb contains much more information because it is not page limited. It also contains many more pictures and they are in color. It also arrives earlier. You also get special emails about special events or changes that snail mail people don't get.

If you don't want to view the Backbulb in your email you can view it on the Carmel Orchid Society website, www.carmelorchidsociety.org where you can print your own color copy.

For those of you who really don't have an email and never intend to have an email, the Public Library will help you view and print a copy. Or, hobble down to a Cyber Café, have a cuppa, view and print your Backbulb in living color.