



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

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September 2006

Bar-B-Q & Orchid Auction September 10th

This year the Greenhouse Tour will not be a Greenhouse Tour, but a Bar-B-Q and Orchid Auction. It will start at 2:00pm at the home of Peter & Shirley West. There were several reasons why your Board decided on this change of activity but the primary reason was cost. Bus rentals are extremely expensive due to the price of gas. The Board also considered having

a "drive yourself Greenhouse Tour" visiting several nearby vendors with a picnic lunch but those plans have not worked out.

So, the Board decided to try something different – our first Bar-B-Q and Orchid Auction. We will have great food by President Ken and Chef Bill and great orchids from

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From Our President

A slate of nominees for officers and directors for 2007 will be presented at our October meeting; additional nominations for any of the elective positions may be made from the floor at that time. Consent must be given prior to presenting a name in nomination. The election will be at the November meeting.

I would like to urge all of our members to attend the Greenhouse Tour / BBQ and plant auction at the home of Shirley & Peter West which will take place on September 10th.

For those members who don't know me I would like to explain how I became involved with COS. I accompanied my wife on a local greenhouse tour and BBQ and helped with the cooking and serving. It was at the home of Imogene & Zane Speiser and I was able to meet and get to know other members like can only be done at this type of event.

I can promise everyone that the food will be great and the orchids will be fabulous, see you all there.

Ken Ashton, President

No Monday Meeting This Month



Cattleya Culture

Cattleyas are among the most commonly grown orchids, and their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids.

The flowers in cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors. Culture varies only slightly among most of these groups; this cultural information is a general guide to "standard" cattleya culture.

Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air-plants. Because they are epiphytic, they have developed water-storage organs, called pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in a very porous, free-draining medium.

LIGHT is one of the most important factors in growing and blooming cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse setting or in the home. Bright light to some sun must be given to the plants, but no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means at east, shaded- south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 30% to 50% of full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot- candles). Leaves should be a medium green color.

TEMPERATURES. Recommended temperatures are 55 to 60 degrees F at night and 70 to 85 degrees during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures 5 to 10 degrees higher. A 10 to 20 degrees differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95 degrees F), if humidity, air circulation and shading are

increased.

WATER should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the pot is dictated by many criteria - size and type of pot, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need slightly more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of medium; it can indicate if a plant needs water. A freshly sharpened pencil inserted in the potting medium can be an indicator of moisture. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50 degrees F may injure plants, as will softened water.

HUMIDITY. Cattleyas need 50% to 80% relative humidity. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water so that the plants stand above the water. Misting the plants in the morning only is helpful in dry climates. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity and/or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse the humidity can be increased by wetting the floor. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZER must be given to cattleyas on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high nitrogen (30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. High-phosphorus or bloom booster (10-30-20) formulation may be used occasionally (every 4 to 6 applications) to make sturdy growths and promote healthy blooming. When in active growth, plants



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 July, 2005



Checkbook Balance on July 1	\$10,431.46
July Income	1,061.00
July Expense	(2,200.15)
Checkbook Balance on July 28	\$9,292.31
CD balance on July 15 was	\$7,963.06

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, October 2, 2006 at 7:00pm
(First Monday of every month) The First Presbyterian Church, 501 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940

Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, Sept 18, 2006, at 7:30pm
The meeting will be held at the home of Peter and Shirley West.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 10, 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.

Diablo View Orchid Society

Annual Fall Show and Sale, October 14 & 15, 2006, 9 to 5 & 10 to 4. Pleasant Hill Community Center, www.diabloviewos.org.

Bar-B-Q and Orchid Auction Reservation Form

Yes! I will be attending the Carmel Orchid Society Bar-B-Q and Orchid Auction at Peter & Shirley's home on September 10, 2006 at 2 PM. Please reserve the following for me:

_____ Members at @ 10.00 each, including raffle ticket \$ _____

_____ Guests at @ 15.00 each, including raffle ticket \$ _____

Member Name _____

Guests Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Food Selection, enter count for all members & guest. Beef tri-tips _____ Chicken _____
 Vegetarian Entrée _____

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail them to:
Carol Easton, P.O. Box A, Carmel, CA 93921

D & D Flowers Fall Open House

September 23rd and 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Half Moon Bay. Great prices on original divisions of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums and many more genera. We will also feature plant divisions/sprouted back bulbs from the Kajikawa and Ayers Cymbidium Collections. Please bring you own boxes. Really good deals... priced to sell. Will take cash or checks, no credit cards.

Please note that D & D Flowers Greenhouse is open to the public only during their Spring and Fall Open House.

The greenhouse is located 1/3 mile east of Main Street on Hwy 92. Just east of Spanish Village is a house and wood pile yard. Turn onto the street between the house and the wood pile yard and go over the bridge. The greenhouse is on the right. If you have questions or need directions please call Dennis Olivas at 925-060-1246. We currently do not have a list of what there is available but there are thousands of plants priced from \$5 and up.

Bar-B-Q & Orchid Auction *Continued*

Maplethorpe and Bay Breeze for you all to bid on. Each paid admission will include 1 raffle ticket, and every ticket will be a winner. Selection of the raffle plants will be based on the order that the tickets are drawn. Peter and Shirley have graciously volunteered to have this event at their lovely home. The Society will furnish food and beverages but we would like each attendee to bring a folding chair if possible.

The Board also suggest that as many people as possible should carpool. Meet in the Home Depot parking lot at 1:00pm and depart by 1:30.

Once you make your reservation you will receive your confirmation either by email or snail mail with additional details and map. The raffle tickets will be handed out at the Bar-B-Q.



Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

Our summer temps have fallen back to normal thank goodness. I found a formula on the internet to help revive those orchids that may have become dehydrated during our hot spell. Mix up the following:

- 2 parts sugar
- 1 part drinking alcohol-any kind including the cheap stuff
- 7 parts cold water
- 1 pinch of Epsom salts
- 1 drop Super thrive-avail in the garden sections
- 1 drop liquid dish soap

Your dehydrated orchid needs energy not just water. Try soaking the plant for several minutes in this solution. Then rinse it in clear water. I found this an orchid site at www.orchidboard.com.

Lots of forums and some live chat on orchids. Our last meeting featured a demo on mounting orchids. A gentleman on one of the forums uses clear or brown silicon caulk to affix his plants to the mounts be it cork or otherwise. He says it's faster, looks cleaner and doesn't seem to bother the plants. You put a little caulk on first and let it set up till it's sticky, affix your orchid and let it harden. No need for fish line. Many people actually use the reverse side of the cork. The natural curve helps to hold the moss in place. Some pet stores sell cork or you can order it from Cal West Orchids.

Ever have an orchid that just seems to exist, not happy, not growing, but not happy either? Try taking it out of the medium and clean off the roots. Place the

plant in an empty clay pot. Water and fertilize it on your normal schedule with your other plants. If the plant wants to live, it will put out a new shoot or new roots. When this happens you may once again repot it.

You can use hydrogen peroxide to treat crown rot. It is good for monopodial orchids like vands and phalaenopsis. Use it full strength, pouring it directly into the crown of the plant. If rot is present, it will fizz and bubble. Keep the plant in lower light and drier than normal. Repeat every 3 days until you see no more fizzing or bubbling. Slowly reacclimate the plant to normal conditions. The plant will often keiki after this treatment.

Looking for practical stake for those smaller orchids? You may use bamboo

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October Goodies Providers

Goodies for the October meeting will be provided by:

- Mirtha Thomas
- Ida Hale
- Evelyne Anzini
- Debra Majcher-Gore
- Ellie Manon

Thank You to those who supported last month.



Cattleya Culture

Continued

need fertilizer every two weeks, and when not growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at 1/4 recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when 1) the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot, or 2) the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). It is best to repot 1) just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, 2) after flowering, or 3) in the spring time.

Mature cattleyas are usually potted in medium-grade potting material; seedlings in fine-grade. Until a plant has six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, 3 to 5 bulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for 2 to 3 years of growth before crowding the pot. Place a small cone of potting material in the bottom of the pot, cut off any rotten roots, and spread the firm, live roots over the cone. Fill the pot with medium, working it around the roots. Pack firmly; stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots for a while to promote new root growth. A vitamin B1 solution may help re-establish plants quickly.

Orchid Growing Tips

Continued

shish-kabob skewers available at the grocery store. They are about 10" long and sharpened at one end. For those taller orchids you can take a thin branch from a shrub or tree and dry it.

This can give you a very natural looking stake.

Check for those mealy bugs. This is the height of their reproductive season, especially if we get our September heat.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com



Cattleya
Grown By Carolyn Salmon

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 finally been claimed.

But we still have a second jacket that was left in the eating room at May Faire. Owner can claim their jacket from Ida Hale. Call her at 646-8724.