



# The Backbulb

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

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 49, Number 10

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## October Speaker Ron Parsons

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the San Francisco Bay Area's best orchid photographers. He is a member of The Orchid Society of California as well as the San Francisco Orchid Society, and has been growing orchids for 30 years.

His love of photographing orchids has taken him to faraway places such as Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico and Australia.

Ron has taken tens of

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## From Our President

First, I would like to thank everyone involved with making the BBQ Plant Auction the success that it was. This includes not only Carol Easton and her committee, Shirley and Peter West for the use of their beautiful home but also all those who attended; well done to all.

There are two areas of business that will be conducted at the October meeting, the first is the presentation of Amendments of the By-laws and the second is the presentation of the Slate of Nominees for 2007. Both of these will be voted on at the November meeting. The proposed Amendments of the Bylaws are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jud Grubbs, our Back Bulb Editor and Webmaster and may I add the best ever, is taking some time off starting next month. I will be filling in for him until we are able to find a replacement or he returns. As a result, starting with the November newsletter, those who subscribe to the e-mail version will notice a minor change. Instead of actually receiving the Back Bulb you will be sent a link that once you "mouse click" on, it will take you directly to the current Back Bulb and thus allowing it to be printed exactly as it appears on the screen. If there is anyone interested in knowing more about the Editor position, please contact me.

**Ken Ashton, President**



## Lycastes Culture

Lycastes are deciduous in various degrees, from the strongly deciduous, yellow-flowered species like *Lycaste aromatica* that flowers from leafless pseudobulbs to the evergreen types like *Lycaste skinneri* with pseudobulbs that retain their leaves at flowering. This genus produces large, long-lasting, showy, triangular flowers that are waxy. The plants are distinctive for their roundish pseudobulbs and broad, plicate (pleated) leaves. Culture for the hybrid genus *Angulocaste* (*Lycaste* ~ *Anguloa*) follows the culture for the *Lycaste* parent.

**L I G H T** requirements vary. Deciduous species require light conditions as for cattleyas — 2,000 to 4,000 foot-candles or 50 to 70 percent shade. More light is usually provided as new growths form pseudobulbs. Evergreen species grow best with less light — 1,500 to 2,000 foot-candles or 60 to 80 percent shade.

**T E M P E R A T U R E S** for the evergreen species should be fairly constant and never hot. Nights of 60 F and days of 75 to 80 F are desirable. The deciduous species of lycaste can tolerate a wider range, up to 95° F during the day and down to 50° F at night when dormant in the winter.

**W A T E R** should be applied freely during active growth (usually summer). The potting medium should begin to dry out between waterings. Deciduous species should be kept almost completely dry when leafless; evergreen species should be kept only slightly drier than normal after pseudobulbs form. Water should be kept off the leaves, and especially out of the new growths, to prevent rot or leaf spotting, which disfigure otherwise handsome plants.

**H U M I D I T Y** should be maintained at 40

to 70 percent. Deciduous species need less humidity when dormant. Brisk air circulation will help prevent damage to leaves by leafspot fungi.

**F E R T I L I Z E** regularly and heavily when plants are actively growing. A higher nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) is recommended during active growth (usually summer); some growers spread blood meal on the top of the potting medium as new pseudobulbs form, though in inexperienced hands this can be dangerous to the plant. In autumn, or as growths mature and pseudobulbs are produced, fertilizer is reduced or switched to a high-phosphorus (such as 10-30-20) formulation to stimulate flower production.

**P O T T I N G** is best when new growth starts, usually in spring. A fine-grade potting medium is often used; fir bark and perlite (3:1) is a common, fast-draining mix. When repotting, split plants into no less than two pseudobulbs per pot and choose a container to allow for two years of growth. The plant should be positioned in the vessel so that the newest growths are farthest away from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the pseudobulbs. Push the medium firmly around the roots. Keep humidity high and the potting medium on the dry side until new roots form

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Culture Sheet Courtesy  
American Orchid Society  
16700 AOS Lane  
Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351  
[orchidweb.org](http://orchidweb.org)



## 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 August, 2006



Checkbook Balance on Aug 1	<b>\$9,292.31</b>
Aug Income	407.00
Aug Expense	(681.16)
Checkbook Balance on Aug 31	<b>\$9,018.15</b>
CD balance on Aug 15 was	<b>\$7,988.42</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, 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, Oct 16, 2006, at 7:30pm  
The meeting will be held at the home of Sharon and Ken Ashton.

### Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Oct 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](http://www.diabloviewos.org).

**Fall Sacramento Garden & Arts Center Sale** October 7 & 8, 10 to 4. At the Shepard Garden and Art Center, located at 3330 McKinley Boulevard in McKinley Park.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchid Fest**, San Francisco Orchid Society, Hall of Flowers, in the County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, entrance at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way  
When: Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8, 2006, 10 am to 5 pm, \$3 General Admission, \$2 Seniors (65 or older) and Disabled, Children 12 and under are free w/ an adult. SFOS Hotline, 415-665-2468 or visit [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

**Peninsula Orchid Society Orchid Auction** Friday, October 27 San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way San Mateo, CA Plant Entry and Bidder Registration Starts at 5 PM Auction Starts at 7 PM.

## California Orchids Fall Sale

**Saturday October 14**

**9am - 4pm**

We'll have a great variety of healthy Species and Hybrids for sale!

Special sale prices on many items!

Supplies, Books

Seedling to Specimen sizes

515 Aspen Rd

Bolinas, Ca 94924

(415) 868-0203

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

## October Speaker

*Continued*

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thousands of plant shots, and at present has over 25,000 orchid slides. He gives talks nationally and internationally, on these and other topics: Bulbophyllum, Rare and Unusual Orchid Species, Dendrobium Species, Masdevallias and Draculas, Pleurothallids, Cattleya and Laelia Species, Oncidium Alliance Species, Cool-Growing Species, some Orchids of SouthEast Australia, Oncidium Species, Monopodial Orchids, Miniature Species and Orchids Under Lights.

Ron has also given talks at societies for Cacti & Succulents, Carnivorous Plants, Gesneriads and California Wildflowers.

He has many photographs published in books, magazines, newspapers and brochures, with many more pending publication.



## Orchid Growing Tips

*By Carolyn Salmon*

October brings in shorter days. We never know in our area whether we will get our first rains or a long Indian Summer. It is time to begin backing off on the high nitrogen fertilizers. I pay attention to the weather this month in order to adjust my watering schedule as well. The sun angle has changed too. It may be time to take off your shade cloth for the winter. The cattleyas have been blooming. Some may need to be repotted this Oct or Nov when the new roots are an inch or two long. It will soon be time to repot the pleurothallids like draculas and masdevallias. They can handle the stress when the cooler weather arrives. If you have orchids planted in sphagnum moss, they've done really well this summer, but be careful this winter as it is easy to over-water them.

The focus will soon be on our cymbidiums. My first spike is almost ready to bloom. Our website has detailed instructions to care for your cym spikes. Basically train them early to grow upright and start tying from the bottom so you don't accidentally snap it off. Wine corks are helpful to slide under those sideways growing spikes as well.

I have spoken a lot about controlling orchid pests like my favorite mealy bugs. But they are still reproducing rapidly this time of year. They love the undersides of leaves. Many spray controls won't kill these hidden bugs unless it actually touches them. This means lifting up the individual plants to spray underneath. Wear good hand and arm protection while doing this because you will come into di-

rect contact with the pesticide. Spray the floor areas too, because these mealy bugs start from the ground and work upwards in many cases.

If you'd like to continue fertilizing your plants throughout the winter months, I would suggest a bloom type 0-10-10. 0 is the lack of nitrogen content. Nutri-cote is a good time release fertilizer. I have not found it locally, so you may have to order it online.

A website for you to check out is [www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com](http://www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com). Many of our October speaker's photographs are featured there.

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

## 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.



## Board of Directors Proposes Changes to Society By-Laws

**Proposed changes are underlined.**

### **ARTICLE IV. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**Section 1. THE BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY** shall be transacted by the Board of Directors composed of a President, Vice-President, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Back Bulb Editor, four directors, AOS representative and the May Faire Coordinator.

**Section 2.** (No Change)

**Section 3. THE FOUR ELECTED DIRECTORS** the Treasurer and the Back Bulb Editor shall hold office for a term of two years. Two of the four directors will be elected each alternating year. All other offices shall be elected to a term of one year.

**Section 4.** (No change)

**Section 5.** (No change)

**Section 6. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS** shall be as follows: The President is responsible for conducting the general business of the Society; the Vice-President is responsible for the non-event regular monthly programs of the Society and shall preside in the absence of the President and succeed in that office if it becomes vacant; the Recording/Corresponding Secretary is responsible for the keeping of the minutes of the Board meetings and handling the Soci-

ety's official correspondence; the Treasurer is responsible for conducting the financial business and keeping the financial records of the Society; the Membership Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the active roster, collecting annual membership dues and coordinating the publishing of the Society annual roster; the Back Bulb Editor is responsible for collecting articles and publishing the monthly Back Bulb electronically as well as printed, the mailing shall be the joint responsibility of the Recording/Corresponding Secretary and the Back Bulb Editor; the May Faire Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the May Faire Committee. All officers and directors may have other duties assigned by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**Section 7.** (No change)

**Section 8. DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY** shall be by checks in the name of the Society, signed by a signatory designated by the Board of Directors. Business matters which relate to the purchase, sale or encumbrance of property of the Society involving amounts in excess of \$1,000 must be approved by the general membership at a regular meeting.