



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 50, Number 1

January 2007

January Speaker

Scott Collins

Monday Jan. 8th at 7:00pm

In This Month's Backbulb

Scott Collins is the owner of Echo Valley Orchids, in Salinas Ca. The nursery has been growing, showing and breeding Phalaenopsis, Miniature Cattleyas and many other genera for 20 years. Over the years they have received over 80 AOS flower quality and cultural awards for their plants. Many of Scott's hybrids have also received recognition by the American Orchid Society, as well.

Scott is an accredited orchid judge of the American Orchid Society and has held the position of Vice Chairman of the Pacific Central Judging Region.

Our January program covers Outdoor Growing Orchids with a specific look at all our local Micro-climates.

Scott has had the great opportunity to speak about Phalaenopsis and other orchid subjects to a very wide audience including programs at all the local northern California societies, British Columbia, The International Phalaenopsis Alliance meetings in New York and Los Angeles, as well as the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, B.C.

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From Our President

MAYFAIRE 2007 ON THE HORIZON

The Carmel Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show and Sale will be held on May 5th and 6th, 2007 at the American Tin Cannery Mall. Susan Segal is the Coordinator 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 are able to volunteer, please attend the meetings and sign up. If

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Cymbidium Culture

These orchids are prized for their long lasting sprays of flowers, used especially as cut flowers or for corsages in the spring. There are two main types of cymbidiums — standards and miniatures. Where summer nights are warm (above 70 F), only miniatures can be recommended, because many are more tolerant of heat and able to flower in warmer weather.

LIGHT is important for growing cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright area in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many southern climates, high summer temperatures, especially at night, may prevent the plants from blooming. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20 percent shade. In cool areas (such as coastal California), full sun is tolerated. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green.

TEMPERATURES are another critical factor in flowering standard and miniature cymbidiums. During the summer, standard cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semishade, where day temperatures should be 75 to 85 F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to autumn (August to October) must be 50 to 60 F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 F at night and 65 to 75 F during the day. When plants are in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55 and 75 F. Miniatures can stand temperatures five to 10 degrees higher than standards and still flower. Most cymbidiums can tolerate light frosts and survive, but this is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40 F. In mild climates, they can be grown outside year round. A bright and cool location inside is best

for winter months.

WATER to provide a constant supply of moisture to cymbidiums, which are semiterrestrial plants. They generally produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer and need the most water during that period. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting material evenly moist. Reduce water when the pseudobulbs complete growing in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

HUMIDITY outdoors is usually sufficient during the summer, except in dry climates, where evaporative cooling in a greenhouse is necessary. Keep humidity at 40 to 60 percent during the winter, especially if plants are in bud. Keep the air moving to prevent fungus (*Botrytis*) from spotting the flowers.

FERTILIZE at the proper time to help cymbidiums flower. During the growth season (spring through late summer), high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, blossom-booster fertilizer (such as 10-30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

POTTING is usually done in the spring after flowering, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all of the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Pick a water-retentive potting mix; medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least two to three years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing pseudobulb(s) of the division farthest from the side of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot and fill the

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2007 Dues

Isn't it amazing how fast the time to pay your dues rolls around. Dues are required by January 1st and are delinquent if not paid by Mayfaire or the first weekend in May. Delinquent members will not be listed in the Annual Roster printed in June.

If you joined the Society during the fourth quarter of 2006, your dues are paid for 2007.

Treasurer's Report November, 2006



Checkbook Balance on Nov. 1	\$8,102.28
Nov. Income	2,069.00
Nov. Expense	(1,626.45)
Checkbook Balance on Nov. 30	\$8,544.83
CD balance on Nov. 15 was	\$8,064.16

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
c/o Lori Siegmund
180 Alta Mira Court, Aptos, CA 95003-4903

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter via E-Mail	Receive Newsletter via US Mail
Single	\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00 <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

Check Our Website For More Events

Next Regular Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

NOTE THE CHANGE OF MEETING NIGHT AND TIME

Monday, January 8, 2007 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

NOTE THE CHANGE OF MEETING NIGHT AND TIME

Monday, January 22, 2007, at 7:00pm

The meeting will be held at the home of Carolyn Salmon.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2007 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.

Pacific Orchid Exposition 2007

Feb 16 –18, 2007

Fort Mason, San Francisco

Annual San Francisco Orchid Society
Show & Sale. Preview event, the evening
of Thursday Feb 15th.

For more information contact: Dennis
Westler, (510) 339-826; email: denniswestler@aol.com

Goodies Providers

Goodies for the January meeting will be provided by the Board of directors.



Panarica prismatocarpa, Watercolor by Sally Robertson

ORCHID FANTASIA

SAN FRANCISCO ORCHID SOCIETY'S 2007

PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION

FEBRUARY 15 - 18

FORT MASON CENTER
SAN FRANCISCO

GALA BENEFIT PREVIEW

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 - 10 PM

SHOW & PLANT SALE

**FRI, SAT & SUN
FEB 16 - 18**

WWW.ORCHIDSANFRANCISCO.ORG

415-665-2468

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From Our President (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

you cannot attend one of the meetings but are willing to volunteer, please call Carolyn Salmon at 375-3748. We are going to need a lot of help this year in getting out the word that we have changed our venue from the Crossroads to the American Tin Cannery and we need your help.

We have sent the vendor letters out and hope to have at least 22 to participate in the May-Faire. However, you, our club members and volunteers make the entire event possible. It takes about sixty volunteers beginning with the Friday, May 4th setup, to make the show a suc-

cess. 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. Sunday May 6th at 4:00 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 MayFaire. 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.

Christmas Party

The 2006 Christmas party was a fun time and, again, great food provided by the Monterey Beach Hotel. They have always served us well and given us a great discount because of their chef, none other than our own Bill Hale!

We had 68 in attendance and some 80 plants to raffle. Our plants came from Rod McClellan, Bay Breeze and Blossoming Orchids so we had a good variety. The cost of the raffle plants was \$721 and \$490 in raffle tickets were sold for a COS cost of \$231. The bottom line for the event was a COS cost of \$1,234.39. We had budgeted a COS cost of \$1,500 so we ended up being \$265 under budget. Offsetting this cost and the cost of our regular meetings which was \$2,500 this year, is the reason that our May Faire is so important.

A special award (framed and signed limited edition print of a Phaleanopsis) went to Pat Landee and Jud Grubbs for their past work on our Back-

bulb, membership and roster. Their tenure creating the Backbulb and roster has resulted in the best we've ever produced. Other members retiring from their long held positions were asked to select their plant of choice before the raffle were: John & Kazuko Mockett for conducting our raffles and Peggy Purchase for being caretaker of the Hospice Cymbidiums. Ellie Mamon was asked to select a plant for coordinating the monthly goodies and Gerda Chavez for winning the drawing on early membership dues payment.

Next Christmas we are considering an earlier event such as a brunch or lunch for a couple of reasons: it's a bit less expensive and many members have difficulty driving at night. Any feedback on this would be greatly appreciated. Just email me at ashcas@msn.com or call me at 659-7387.

Sharon Ashton



Orchid Growing Tips

By Carolyn Salmon

As I write this, we are still in the grips of a cold snap. Remember as more and more cymbidiums put up spikes, you will need to protect them from this cold somewhat. Mine sit right up against the house. Rain will damage the flowers very quickly as botritis forms those little brown spots on the sepals and petals. Those rough spots on the buds are slug and snail damage. Place and tie a cotton ball well below the buds as the slugs or snails won't crawl up past the cotton. Where possible, keep your cymbidiums off the ground. This will help keep slugs and snails from crawling into the vent holes at the bottom of your pots. They help breakdown your mix which inhibits the roots access to oxygen. They also feed on the root's green tips where the new growth begins. There is a product out there called Cloud Cover that will help any of your plants from frost damage. Watering well before a freeze helps protect plants as well. The theory is that the water on the surface stays at 32 degrees even if the outside temperature goes lower.

My greenhouse is only getting very light watering on sunny days once a week or so. I notice the plants are staying moist for a long time. This is especially true of plants planted in sphagnum moss. That may stay moist for a couple weeks. I am using the hydrogen peroxide on many masdevallias these days as the older center leaves turn yellow. It is a stop gap until I get them in fresh mix, but it tells me that the mix is breaking down and getting sour in the very center. I pick off any yellow or rotting leaves daily this time of year, because rot is the enemy in these cold wet conditions.

Many of my orchids in the pleurothallid family, like the draculas and masdevallias are sprouting new growths now. They love these cooler temps and I am not currently fertilizing at all. They are light feeders anyway. It demonstrates

that heat stress really does stunt the growth of orchids in this family. Jim Nybakken tells me that he repots his draculas in February, so they have settled into their new mix before the heat returns. I bring many orchids into the house to enjoy the blooms. Keep the alcohol handy to control the mealy bugs. The warmth of the house spurs them into a rapid reproduction cycle. I give them a very good spraying, before I return them again to the greenhouse. Ron Parson's revised website at www.flowershots.net has a very good links page that will take you to several other orchids societies in the Bay Area and north. Many societies keep their newsletter online like our society. It keeps you informed of the many orchid show and plant auctions that take place in the Bay Area beginning in January. The Cymbidium Society of America has a very informative website at www.cymbidium.org. They publish a Journal as well. They also host a discussion forum and you can see a list of recent discussion on the home page. The last website is www.cymbidium.com.au. These are cyms in Australia. Interesting site with culture info and you can order plants delivered to the U.S.

Keep warm and have a very Happy New Year.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

Cymbidium Culture (Continued)

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container with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly. Single backbulbs need not even be placed

in mix until new growth and roots are noted. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above.