

The BackBulb

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

May 2019



May Speaker: Frank Baptista

Complex Paphiopedilum Hybrids: Past & Present + Some

Frank was born on the island of Faiai in the Azores and emigrated to the US in 1980. He started growing orchids in 1981 and found that his preferred plants were complex Paph hybrids and Miltoniopsis. He has done hybridizing in both genera. Frank also was an accredited AOS judge for 19 years and is now retired from judging. He recently re-located to Aptos, California, and is still growing various genera of orchids in a small greenhouse in his backyard.



A spectacular Oncidium from the Santa Barbara Show, taken by Kathie Ritter.

1

May Speaker

2

Upcomming Events
The Rite of Spring

In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **S thru Z** to **bring refreshments** to the next meeting.

Remember, It's time to pay your dues!

COS Officers

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Upcoming Events

May

5/4-5 Carmel Valley Garden Show, 10-4 Hidden Valley Music Seminars, Carmel Valley Village

5/6 Monday, COS May Meeting

5/11 Mother's Day Weekend Orchid Show & Sale, Lakeside Park Garden Center Nursery Oakland, CA.

June

6/3 Monday, COS June Meeting

6/8-9 Bromeliad Society of San Francisco Annual Sale in conjunction with the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society San Francisco County Fair Building 1199 9th Ave at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

6/8 17th Orchid Digest Speakers Day Orchids Around the World Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA



Bulbophyllum frostii in John's greenhouse

The Rite of Spring

The days are getting longer and warmer and obsessive orchid growers are performing the Rite of Spring (apologies to Igor Stravinsky). Each year about this time adherents spend inordinate amounts of time on the ritual potting and dividing, with an occasional sacrifice to pacify the orchid gods.

These annual rites are feared by Novices who have yet to be exposed to the mysteries, and dreaded by the masters for the tedious hours they will spend. They learned long ago that most orchids can be cut to pieces and slammed into a new pot and

still bloom next year. They live in fear of repotting Angraecums and Maxillarias, genres famous for sulking after having their roots disturbed. A sulking plant will drive an normally patient orchid master slowly crazy until they question their devotion and contemplate leaving the faith.

Novices will often ask a master which potting mix is best, or should they use plastic or clay pots. The wise master may reply "Grasshopper...it is not the mix or pot that is important, it is your watering that determines what the best choice is". The Master knows that from water springs life or death, and orchids can be fussy, favoring neither complete dryness or complete saturation. The Master changes the mix and pot to accommodate the needs of the Orchid and the grower.

One does not attain the rank of Orchid Master without having being punished for their success, some plants will grow beyond expectations. The choice is clear: divide or make room. Much contemplation is needed to discern the correct path for a large specimen is a site to behold, but not every large plant will make a worthy specimen. Dwell upon the flower and foliage, quantity and quality before deciding to cut. And once the decision is made to cut, think twice and cut once, for a division with too few pseudobulbs will just bring frustration.

The Novice may despair at ever accumulating the experience to become a Master, surely they will sacrifice much of their collection in the process. Every Master knows that the path to enlightenment is paved with orchids sacrificed to learning the way. The tags of expired plants will accumulate beyond count before one can call oneself a Orchid Master, and every master knows that each failure is an opportunity to try again.

John

Bulbophyllum sp. in John's greenhouse. This was it's first bloom.



Andys Orchids display at Santa Barbara, Kathie Ritter.



Orchids Carol saw on her latest European trip.



CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY 2019 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Carol Easton, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

If you were referred by a current member, please provide
his/her name _____

Renewal ☐ New Member ☐

Member of the American Orchid Society ☐

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter	
	Via E-Mail	Via US Mail
Single	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>



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50 Years of the
CARMEL VALLEY
GARDEN
S·H·O·W

May
4th & 5th
2019

CARMEL VALLEY
GARDEN
C·L·U·B

Cut Flowers Containers
Arrangements

Entries Open to the Public

Silent Auction Live Music Plant Sales
Vendors Photography Contest
Children's Garden Garden Café
Saturday Evening Gala

10 am to 4 pm
Hidden Valley Music Seminars
Carmel Valley Village

Proceeds benefit
Carmel Valley Nonprofits

Rules and info on cvgardenclub.org





D & D Flowers & Tiny Jungle Spring Sale

May 18th & 19th, 2019

9:00 am to 3 pm

**169 1st Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014**

Directions 280 north of Hicky Blvd.: Take the Pacifica/Eastmoore Avenue exit and veer to the right to the Eastmoore Avenue exit. At the stop light, you would like to be on the 2nd lane to the left. Turn left onto Junipero Serra Blvd and at the stop light; make a right turn onto San Pedro Road. Then continue through Mission Street between Bank of America and Wendy's. At the stop sign, make a left onto 1st Avenue. Greenhouse is on the right hand side of the 3rd house with the red garage and a sign reading Demattei Nursery. Enter the gate of the chain link fence with red lattice on the left hand side of the red garage.

Please drive safely. Limited street parking so please car pool. Do not park within the chain link fence.

Mahalo for your cooperation!!!!!!