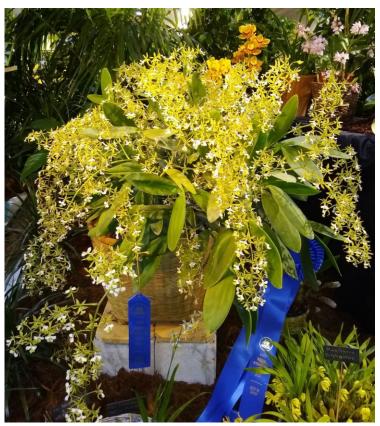
# The Back Bulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

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.



May Speaker

Upcomming Events
The Rite of Spring

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

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!

# BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

#### **COS Officers**

President John OConnell VP Program Carol Easton

> Recording Secretary Janette Ford

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P.O. Box 223462 Carmel, CA 93922-3462

BackBulb Editor & Webmaster John OConnell Membership Carol Easton

**Show Chairman** Frank Baptista

# **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

# BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

still bloom next year. They live in fear of repotting Angraecums and Maxillarias, genuses 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.

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





Andys Orchids display at Santa Barbara, Kathie Ritter.

John

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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 Telephone Email address If you were referred by a current member, please provide Membership Receive Newsletter his/her name Via E-Mail Via US Mail Type \$25 \_ Single \$30 Renewal New Member \$35 \_ \$40 Couple Member of the American Orchid Society \_ Vendor \$35 \_ \$40









## D & D Flowers & Tiny Jungle Spring Sale

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!!!!!!