

# The BackBulb

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

October 2023

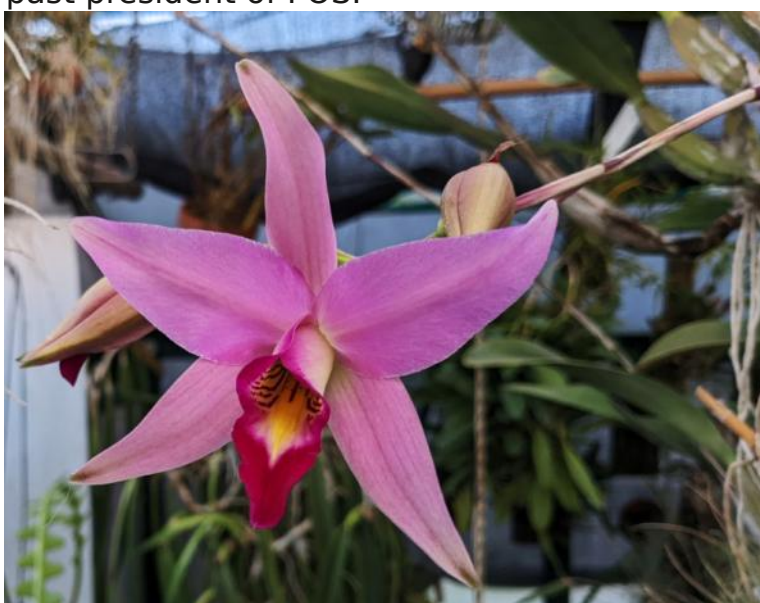


## October Speaker: Ken Jacobsen

Our speaker for October will be Ken Jacobsen speaking on *Laelia anceps*, a cymbidium companion plant, covering some of the taxonomic history, the populations in nature, the various well-known forms, and a bit on their culture. For our climate here in the Bay Area, *anceps* are a great companion plant to cymbidiums, and provide variety in blooming times and color forms.

Ken was first introduced to orchids by his uncle in the 1960's and has been growing orchids for well over 40 years. His collection includes Cymbidiums, *Sarcochilus*, *Oncidiums*, *Odontoglossums*, *Lycastes*, *Cattleyas*, *Laelias*, *Masdevallias* and several other genera. Ken and his wife, Amy, enjoy travelling to all areas of the world where orchids are grown, visiting the local growers, and seeing various species in the wild. Together, Amy and Ken have over 7000 orchids and many awards. Ken and Amy are both judges in the AOS judging program. Ken was a past CSA judge, past AOS Trustee and a past president of POS.

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Ken will be providing the Plant table from his personal collection of *Laelia anceps*. The October meeting will take place at the Community Room of the Pebble Beach

## COS Officers

### President

Amanda Nixon

### VP Program

John OConnell

Kathie Ritter

Carolyn Salmon

### Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

### Treasurer

Janette Ford

### Directors

Cathie Walmsley

Anna Narvaez-

Helms

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

## BackBulb Editor & Webmaster

John OConnell

## Membership

Amanda Nixon

**Community Services District building** next to the Pebble Beach Fire House, 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach We will hang the club banner to help people find it. Come early to find your way the first time.

**Note that it will be dark by 7PM the night of the meeting**, Pebble Beach has no street lights, and you must make several turns to get to the fire station. If you want to follow somebody, meet either: Cathy (831.224.3913) at the Domino's Pizza in the Country Club Gate Center (off David St. and Hwy 68) at at 6:30, to leave at 6:45 She will be driving a teal 1994 Mercury, or John (770.617.1058) at RG Burgers in the Crossroads shopping center at 5:15 for dinner with Ken, the speaker, we will drive over after dinner.

Directions:

Since this is in Pebble Beach you will need to stop at a gate and tell them you are going to the Carmel Orchid Club meeting at the PB Community Services Building, there is no charge for this.

Take **Highway 68** towards Pacific Grove, take a **left on David**, take a **right on Congress**, **left at the stop sign**, stop at the Country Club Gate.

You are now on Forest Lodge, in 0.8 mi. **bear left on Sloat**, in 0.7mi take a **left on Lopez**, in 0.4mi Forest Lake comes in on the right, **stay on Lopez** and take the first entrance on the right and you will be facing the door to the meeting room.

It is also possible to get there from the Hwy 1 gate or the PG gate, I leave the directions from these gates as a problem for Google to solve, and the intrepid to follow.



## September

**BBQ:** There were 25 members and guests attending at the Patton's home September 16th. The weather was cool with the sun breaking out at 2 pm. The pot luck food was great and there was a nice plant table and Show and Tell. Ten folks stayed for wine and talk afterwards.

## R.I.P

Halloween seems to be an appropriate time to admit that I've killed a few Draculas. I've tried growing *D. vampira* and *D. bella*, to name a couple. They're such cool plants! But they require high humidity and shouldn't be allowed to dry out, according to the American Orchid Society. I'm not vigilant enough to guarantee that. As I was putting the Halloween decorations up, I couldn't resist arranging this photo, which will



no doubt prompt laughs from orchid growers and puzzled shrugs from everyone else. When you purchase an orchid, you need to keep the little plastic stake that typically comes with it, on which the plant's name and other identifying information is printed. Almost every orchid lover I know keeps these ID tags – yes, even if the plant dies. At first, I assumed it's because the tags are reusable. But blank tags are easy to come by. You stash the proof of your failures in a plastic bag or a small container. You look through them wistfully once in a while, like photos of lost loves: 'That was beautiful while it lasted...' Maybe it's confirmation that you tried your hardest. Maybe it's a reminder of how much time and money you spend on these plants – and a nudge to curb that impulse in the future. Whatever the reason, it's a funny little habit and probably a silly one. Better to keep the plants, alive, I guess.

**Chris Thomas**

## Upcoming Events

### October

**10/2 - 7pm Monday COS October meeting.** This meeting will take place in Pebble Beach, at the Community Room of the Pebble Beach Community Services District building next to the Pebble Beach Fire House, 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. Ken Jacobsen is speaking about *Laelia anceps*.

### November

There is no regular November meeting planned. See you at the Fall Market!

**11/10-11 COS Fall Orchid Market**





# FALL ORCHID MARKET

presented by the Carmel Orchid Society

ORCHIDS • SUCCULENTS • CARNIVORES • IKEBANA • TILLANDSIA

Friday - Saturday  
Nov. 10th & 11th, 2023  
9am-4pm

AOS JUDGING • CULTURE TALKS • POTTING DEMONSTRATIONS

Located at 4590 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel, CA  
[CarmelOrchidSociety.org/Events](https://CarmelOrchidSociety.org/Events)  
(831) 626-1120

**Friday, Nov. 10th & Saturday,  
Nov. 11th, 2023**

A perfect opportunity to shop and ask questions about orchids!

**When:** Friday & Saturday, Nov 10 & 11 from 9am-4pm

**Where:** 4590 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel, CA

**Presentations**

**Potting demonstrations**, 11:30 on

Friday and Saturday

**Ikebana** floral arrangement demonstration, 1:30 on Saturday

**Dennis Olivas** at 10:30 Saturday

**Vendors:** D&D Flowers, Ikebana Society of the Monterey Peninsula, Member Plant Table, New Earth Orchids, Orchids and Gardens, Orchids of Los Osos, Organic First, River Road Succulents, SLO Orchids, Tanya Lam Orchids & Supplies

## Volunteer

We need volunteers to help with the show:

- \* Setup on Thursday afternoon
- \* Tear down late Saturday afternoon
- \* Member plant sales
- \* Membership table
- \* Provide Lunch for the vendors

Kathie would like to hear from you at 831-917-6591 or sign up at the October meeting.



Irene Patton, showing and telling about one of her orchids at the September BBQ

## Sell Your Orchids

If your orchid garden or greenhouse is overflowing, dividing and/or selling some of your plants at the fall show is a good way to make room for more orchids! Or if others have envied some of your plants at “show and tell” maybe you could make a little money by dividing that specimen. Members (only members please) of COS are encouraged to bring plants from their collections to sell. Here are a few guidelines for sales:

1. Plants should be disease and pest free.
2. Fill out sales tags as completely as possible (they are included with this newsletter). Plants that have a picture attached and have as much information about the plant as possible sell better. Attach the tag to your plant securely with masking tape or on a stick. If you have several plants, it is always a good idea for you to keep a list of the names and prices of the plants you

bring.

3. COS will keep 25% of each sale as a part of our fundraiser. Price your plants accordingly, but remember that affordable plants sell first. Volunteers who will be at the sales table will not change prices on your plants, so if your plant is not selling, you may want to stop by the table during the show to change the price.
4. Plants can be brought to the church (show location) on Thursday afternoon, November 9th. If you cannot bring them until Friday, we will set them out for sale in the order as they are received. You will need to pick up any unsold plants at 4PM on Saturday.
5. You can sell orchids, bromeliads, succulents, carnivorous plants, or other exotics that you may have around.

I look forward to finding some real gems to purchase among the member's orchids!

**Carolyn Salmon**

## Show Off Your Plants

We will have a display at the Fall Orchid Market this year, but it will be a bit different from years past.

Most of the guidelines from the past still apply:

- \* Plants must be free of pests. It is particularly embarrassing to bring a nice plant to the show but to have it turned away due to the presence of bugs that you didn't see at home.
- \* Plants should be in bloom, or be varieties known for their foliage (Neofinetias, Jewel orchids etc.). Stake the blooms if needed, clean the leaves if needed. Basically make them presentable.
- \* Make the pot (if it has one) presentable. Put plants in plastic pots in a decorative container, clay pots are OK if they are not covered with water scale, algae or otherwise unsightly.
- \* Plants don't have to have a tag, but it is much better if they do.
- \* Bring the plants to the show/market on Thursday afternoon, before 3:30PM. If you can't make Thursday afternoon, be there by 8:30 on Friday morning.
- \* Pick your plants up at 4PM on Saturday.

## AOS Judging

For the first time in decades, this year's Market features AOS (American Orchid Society) judging. This is a great opportunity to see how your blooming orchid stacks up against orchids of the same species or hybridization that have been judged before. Members and non-members are welcome to bring plants for judges to choose from. To have your orchid judged it must be clean and free of pests or infections and have a tag. All plants for judging will be placed in our display and the judges will pull plants for judging from there. So don't worry if it's good enough for judging, just if it's good enough for you to show to the world. Any plants winning awards will be placed back in the exhibit with a certificate of award. Note that for an award to be registered and be official you must pay the AOS \$35, for members, or \$55, for non-members. If you have a problem with this then place a note with your plant saying it is "not for judging".





## John's Judging Story

In honor of the first AOS judging in Monterey in many years, here is the story of my one and only AOS award. It almost didn't happen. Published in ***Orchids*** November 2009

### **Cymbidium lancifolium 'Cammie', CCM/AOS**

**Introduction by John O'Connell/  
photograph by Ramon De Los Santos**

THE BEST STORIES ARE OFTEN BORN OUT OF DISASTERS, but this one is about many little things that went right. It started at the 2006 Santa Barbara Orchid Fair, when I bought this *Cymbidium lancifolium* from a grower of bare-root plants. It survived and grew, despite being shipped across the country to the heat and humidity of Atlanta, Georgia, and then being moved to Monterey, California, in 2007.

By the spring of this year, it still had not bloomed so I asked for advice from Dan Newman, proprietor of Hanging Gardens in San Francisco, who told me to put it outside this summer for the cooler night temperatures. It was good advice; a couple of months later I was rewarded with eight spikes on a plant of a species where all the pictures I could find showed only a few flowers. Eventually the plant bloomed and I took it to the August Carmel Orchid Society meeting where Bruce Rogers, who was speaking on *sobralias*, complemented me on it. I had already been planning to attend the Sacramento Speakers Day,

but I began to think about taking the *Cym. lancifolium* to the judging they were doing at the same time. I needed to spruce up the presentation a little so I put the plant, which is in an ugly makeshift pot, into a wonderful Chinese-style cymbidium container and used some Spanish moss to dress it up.

The day of speakers day started early for



me. It is 200 miles (320 km) to Sacramento from Monterey, and judging started at 9 am. So the cymbidium and I headed up I-5 at a high rate of speed. Fortunately, I did not get lost or stopped, because I arrived just as plant registration was ending. By the end of the day, with my award in hand, I was ready to float home and just marvel at how all the little things went just right. Since this plant came home, it has been housed in an old alcohol bottle, with holes drilled for drainage. Of course, this is not elegant, but the vessel is tall and narrow, which Chinese cymbidiums do best in due to their long roots. The mix is about two thirds coconut husk with the rest aeroflore (expanded clay pellets) with a little charcoal for aeration. I try to fertilize once or twice a week at quarter to half strength, more in the summer less in winter.

Monterey has rather hard water and I have invested in a reverse-osmosis (RO) system for the orchids. Until this summer, I grew this plant inside under my metal halide grow light, but it appears that I will be summering it outside in my polyethylene covered greenhouse from now on. — John O'Connell has been growing an increasing number of orchids for seven years, favoring species plants with interesting foliage, miniatures and flowers that are pointy, striped, spotted or otherwise unusual in some way. He is the newsletter editor and webmaster for the Carmel Orchid Society.

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Measurements in cm: natural spread 3.1, natural spread vertical 5.2; dorsal sepal

## COS Board of Directors, Meeting Minutes for Sep. 21, 2023

Amanda called the meeting to order at 7 pm via Zoom. Present were: Amanda Nixon, Irene Patton, Carolyn Salmon, Kathie Ritter, Cathy Walmsley, Janette Ford and Anna Narvaez-Helms

The minutes for the August meeting were approved unanimously.

We discussed the October meeting, to be at Pebble Beach's community center. Cathy will meet members at the Country Club Gate center at Domino's Pizza at 6:30, to leave at 6:45 for those needing help in finding the community center. She has a teal 1994 Mercury. Ken Jacobsen talk on *Laelia anceps*.

Irene mentioned it might be fun for several members to commit to growing "starter plants" for us to sell at events like West End where people asked us for plants to

width 0.5, dorsal sepal length 2.8; petal width 0.8, petal length 2.2; lateral sepal width 0.7, lateral sepal length 2.9; lip width 0.8, lip length 1.3.

Description: Fifty-eight flowers on eight inflorescences evenly displayed around the base of upright green leaves; sepals and petals white with magenta striping and mid-rib striations; lip white with magenta striping and magenta striations mid-lobe; substance firm; texture matte.

Commended for the number of flowers per inflorescence and beautiful arrangement of flowers around base of plant.

Awarded at the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center Speakers Day. Exhibited by John O'Connell. August 8, 2009



Raffle table action at the September BBQ

buy. Janette said that as a non-profit we could not sell at these events but there was discussion that this might not be the case. Someone said there would not be enough plants to sell by members at the November Market if we did that.

Everyone mentioned the September BBQ and thanked the Pattons. There were 25 people present including guests and 8-10 people stayed for wine afterwards. A suggestion was made that we have a bar tender and a barrister next year.

We discussed having a student



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membership category of \$15. We are researching our By-Laws to see what would be necessary for that. Kathie said she thought a program should be developed in advance before we have students. Irene said she thought due to the horticultural education in Monterey County we might have students who would be interested in our society.

It was suggested that John do a special edition of the Back Bulb to come out two weeks before the Market in November, around the 3rd week of October. We were all encouraged to send John information for this next Back Bulb, October. We think John should put instructions for member sales of orchids in the October Back Bulb for our Members Table in November.

We discussed sources for plants for our plant tables. Kathy reviewed Market plans and there was a general discussion about tablecloths, judges and our greeting table.

Amanda asked if we wanted to list the October meeting in the Pine Cone. \$25 was

approved, Irene said she would talk to Anne at the Pine Cone to see if we could get a package rate for monthly listing of our meetings. Irene is continuing to work on the Market ad for November 3rd. It was noted how many people showed up for the meeting at PB when we listed it in the Pine Cone. Amanda said the room was packed for the recent Ikebana meeting there and they did advertise.

Irene mentioned that the Monterey County Fair is interested in setting up an Orchids Category again in the Floriculture department. Carolyn and Irene will help the fair organizers make categories for orchid entries by interested people. Irene said she thought it was another way to raise awareness for our Society.

New business: we set December 4th for the Christmas Pot Luck at 6 p.m. at the Church. Our next BOD meeting will be on October 23rd at 7 pm by Zoom.

**Irene Patton, Secretary**

## CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

### 2023 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership, 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	
Single	<b>\$35</b> _____
Couple	<b>\$50</b> _____
Vendor	<b>\$50</b> _____
Add an additional <b>\$10</b> to receive the newsletter via USPS	

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tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
			_____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
			_____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
			_____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
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tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
			_____
tape to plant	COS Plant Sale Tag	Price _____ plant id _____	Price _____
	Plant Name _____	Culture/Comments _____	plant id _____
	Sellers Name _____		Sellers name _____
			_____

Print this page for your CVGS member plant sales tags. Fill out 1 tag per plant and attach to the plant. Use the "plant id" field to give each plant a unique code, so you know what you sold.