

The BackBulb

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

January 2025

The January Meeting is on **Saturday January 11th, 2PM** at the Church



January Speaker: David Sorokowsky

Don't Fear the Slippers- A Guide to Successful Paph Culture

Don't Fear the Slippers' is an in depth review of how to grow Paphiopedilum, covering easy, beginners plants all the way through the most challenging species. There are tips for novice and seasoned growers alike.

David received his degree in biochemistry from the University of Toronto, he opted to step outside his chosen field and operated a tropical fish import business for eight years. Upon



John thinks slippers are OK as long as they are Phrags and not Paphs

returning to school, Dave received a degree in enology and viticulture from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. While attending Brock, Dave began acquiring orchids one 2" pot at a time and before he graduated, Dave had over 100 orchids. Winemaking and a passion for orchids prompted Dave to seek a warmer climate in California about one year later. Dave has been growing paphiopedilums for about 20 years and seriously hybridizing for over 10 years. He is an

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

1

January Speaker

2

Upcoming Events
2025 COS Events

3

Orchid Resolutions

COS Officers

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BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

Membership

Amanda Nixon

accredited AOS judge and his paphiopedilums have received over 100 awards to date from the AOS and CSA. Many of those awarded plants playing important roles in his breeding program. In 2018 Dave left winemaking in order to focus all of his time running Paph Paradise Orchids.



A Cymbidium, from Irene, I think.

2025 COS Events

Meetings:

Saturday January 11th, 2 pm
Saturday February 1st, 2 pm
Saturday March 1st, 2 pm.
Saturday April 5th, 2 pm
Monday May 5th, 7 pm
Monday June 2nd, 7 pm
Monday August 4th, 7 pm
Saturday October 4th, 2 pm

Social Events

July Greenhouse tour: TBD
BBQ: Saturday September 13th, 1-4pm
Fall Market: Friday, Saturday November 7-8, set up on 6th
Holiday Party: Saturday December 6th, 1-3:30pm

2025 Dues are Due!

Bring a check to the January meeting or send one to: COS P.O.
Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

Upcoming Events

January

1/11 Saturday 2pm
COS January Meeting

Shows

2/28-3/2 Pacific Orchid Exposition, San Francisco Golden Gate Park.

3/8-10 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds

Orchid Resolutions

Maybe making New Years resolutions is a futile gesture, but it is a good idea to periodically think about what we are doing and can we do better. Here are a few resolutions from COS board members, maybe you have a few that you could share, we would love to hear them.

Amanda:

Sort out all the orchids not doing well and toss them, making more room to grow the ones doing well. To reduce my collection so I can take better care of the ones I have.

John:

Convince members to go to a show (besides ours). Definitely come to our show, but go to an out of town show. If you have never been to an orchid show (besides ours) I would start with San



A Zygo blooming in Carolyn's greenhouse

Francisco's POE (Pacific Orchid Exposition). You can do the show in one day and it has good exhibits and a bunch of vendors. This year it is February 28 to March 2nd. Best of all there is always somebody going who you can car pool with. If you want to make a weekend of it then the Santa Barbara International Orchid show (March 3-8) is the way to go, great show, and Santa Barbara in the spring is worth the trip.

Chris Thomas:

This is the time of year when I should probably be redoubling my efforts to lose a few pounds, exercise more, save more money and so on. Instead, I'm thinking about my orchids. If they could talk, what would THEY want me to do?

I'm a new Californian, having moved here from Idaho, where orchid care meant keeping the plants alive through tough winters with a combination of space heaters, warm-air humidifiers and grow lights.

On really cold nights, I even had some large rocks that – no kidding – I'd heat up in my oven and set on the greenhouse shelves for an extra boost of warmth. I was hesitant to leave town for even a few days, since I didn't want to saddle anyone with that kind of responsibility: "Here are the oven mitts! Carry these hot rocks out to the greenhouse. The sidewalk is icy – don't trip!"

I live in Seaside now, where I think the neighbors probably chuckle when I run out and cover the Cymbidiums on my front porch whenever the temperature drops below 50 degrees. I just can't

help myself. “Keep ‘em going at all costs!” That’s my motto.

The fact is, I don’t know enough yet about the growing conditions on the Central Coast, but I know they are very different than what I’m used to. So, my New Year’s resolution is to learn more about my plants – so I can learn how to help them (and myself) adapt to their new surroundings.

Yes, it’s more humid here. But I no longer have room for a greenhouse, so

many of the orchids are indoors in my living space, where it’s much drier. The Seaside tap water is hard, so I’ve been filtering it to water plants. Is that sufficient? Am I overthinking all this?

It’s been great to have the Carmel Orchid Society members to bounce ideas off of. **If you’ve made an orchid-related New Year’s resolution, please share it with the club. We’d like to round them up and put them in the next Backbulb!**



Chysis limminghei blooming in John's greenhouse.

Notes from the COS December Meeting 12-7- 2024

The holiday potluck included a short business meeting. Club President Amanda Nixon called the meeting to order. She thanked the volunteers who decorated the tables, and those who brought the great variety of delicious food!

Amanda described the duties of each position on the Board of Directors, and listed the roster of current nominees. They were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Members should note that 2025 dues are now due. In addition, donations to the Carol Easton Fund are always appreciated. It was created in remembrance of a late COS member, and the money is used to help pay for speakers for club presentations.

We discussed the idea of having a “fundraising table” at some future meetings, where people can bring plants or other gardening-type supplies to donate for sale, with the proceeds going to the club.

The meeting adjourned just in time for the “white elephant/dirty Santa” gift exchange.

Chris Thomas



Laelia albida in John's greenhouse

72nd
Annual

San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

Save the Date:
Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2025

Orchids
In the
Clouds



www.orchidsanfrancisco.org





CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY 2025 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 **\$35** _____

Couple **\$50** _____

Vendor **\$50** _____

Add an additional **\$10** to receive the newsletter via USPS

Orchid Gems along The California Orchid Trail

- 1. Cal-Orchid, Inc.**
 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
 805.967.1312
www.calorchid.com
 Open Wednesday-Saturday by appointment only
 Special Show hours:
 Friday-Sunday 9am-4pm
- 2. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**
 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
 805.967.1284
www.sborchid.com
 Open Friday 10am-2pm
 Saturday 9am-3:30pm
 (*extra open days around observed holidays)
 Special Show hours:
 Friday & Saturday 8am-5pm
 Sunday 9am-4pm
- 3. Gallup & Stribling Orchids**
 3450 Via Real, Carpinteria
 805.684.9842
www.gallup-stribling.com
 Open Monday-Saturday 8:30am-5pm
 Sunday 11am-3pm
 Special Show hours:
 Friday-Saturday 8:30am-5pm
 Sunday 8:30am-4pm
- 4. Westerlay Orchids**
 3504 Via Real, Carpinteria
 805.684.5411
www.westerlay.com
 Open Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
 Saturday 10am-4pm
 Special Show hours:
 Friday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm
- 5. Ambriz Kingdom of Plants**
 4998 Foothill RD, Carpinteria
 805.570.5792
 Open by appointment only
- 6. Orchids Royale**
 5902 Via Real, Carpinteria
 805.684.8066
 Open by appointment only
 Special Show hours:
 Friday-Sunday 9 am-4 pm