

# The BackBulb

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

October 2025

**October Meeting: Saturday October 4th, 2PM at the Church**



## October Speaker: Brandon Dicochea

### Repotting Demonstration with Masdevallias and Laelias

Brandon Dicochea will do a repotting demonstration using a couple of his plants. He will discuss the medium and mixes and the sterile methods he uses while he repots these plants. If you have questions about what to use on a plant you want to repot, bring it to the meeting.

Brandon has been a member of the Santa Cruz society for many years and has served as a director on the Board. He became interested in orchids while studying at UCSC and met Linda Locatelli there while working on a project involving orchid propagation. He owns a landscape business and cares for the orchid collections of many of his clients in our area. In addition to his large collection of cool growing orchids he also grows and sells carnivorous plants to our local nurseries.

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

**1**

Fall Potluck

**2**

Upcoming Events

**3**

2025 West End  
Celebration

**4**

Plants for Member  
Sales

CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

**FALL ORCHID  
MARKET**

Friday - Saturday Nov. 7th & 8th, 9am-4pm



## COS Officers

### President

Amanda Nixon

### VP Program

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Carolyn Salmon

### Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

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Peter Janick  
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Kathie Ritter  
Albert Satterfield  
Chris Thomas  
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Sonya Weininger

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

## BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

## Membership

Peter Janik

## Upcoming Events

### October

10/4 Saturday 2pm COS  
October Meeting

### November

11/6 Thursday Fall Orchid  
Market setup

11/7-8 Friday-Saturday COS  
Fall Orchid Market

## 2025 COS Events

### Other Events

Fall Market: Friday, Sat. Nov. 7-8  
Holiday Party: Sat. Dec. 6th

All meetings are at the  
Community Church of the  
Monterey Peninsula next to Palo  
Corona park, Carmel Valley  
Road



**Chysis Peachy Keen** in John's greenhouse. A gift from his sister who was gifted it by a friend. Pass your plants on when you are through with them.



## Scenes From the Fall Potluck



**Above left:** Wine around the fire pit

**Above right:** Food!



**Left bellow:** Peter shows off his *Cattleya purpurata*

## The Seven Stages of Orchid Addiction (according to Irene)

1. Ice cubes
2. Novice
3. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
4. In over my head
5. Need a greenhouse and a sugar daddy
6. Think I know it all now
7. Estate

**Which stage are you at?**

## 2025 COS Fall Orchid Market

If it's November then it's time for our annual show, the COS Fall Orchid Market. This is your opportunity to attend a show in your own back yard.

The orchid world revolves around its' shows. It's where orchid people from all over meet to show off their best and rarest plants, see other people's best and rarest plants, meet other orchid addicts, and add to their orchid collection; there is always room for one more orchid.

This is your show. This is when you need to pull out all the stops to get your blooming plants to the show on Thursday so they can be included in the society exhibit. This is when you need to find that extra room in your growing area to accommodate the really beautiful, or interesting (some of us are suckers for weird) plants you are going to buy. This is also the time to unload a few of the plants you have become disenchanted with. And remember, it's a good time to support the Carmel Orchid Society by showing up and support the vendors who support us.

### Details

**When:** Friday & Saturday, Nov 7th & 8th from 9am-4pm

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

**Vendors:** D&D Flowers, Lisa  
Humphreys Orchids, River Road  
Succulents, Ikebana Society of  
Monterey Peninsula, Cacti & Exotica,  
Sorella Orchids, Alejandro's Flora

### Volunteer

We need volunteers to help with the show:

- \* Setup on Thursday afternoon 2:00 – whenever - Check with Kathie Ritter
- \* Tear down late Saturday afternoon 3:30 – 5:00 - Check with Kathie Ritter
- \* Provide Lunch for the vendors - Check with Cathy Walmsley

## Show Off Your Plants

Shows are the time to really show off your plants. I know that early November isn't the best time for orchid blooms but hopefully we can scrounge up enough for a good display.

- \* 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.



## Sell Your Plants

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. Please fill out the COS Member Plant List in duplicate with each of the plants you are bringing,
  - 2a. Put your name in the box for "Seller ID", if you are donating your plants to COS, put COS in the “Seller ID” column.
  - 2b. Ignore the “Seller Code” at the top of the page.
3. For each plant, fill out the Plant Tags. Attach it to the orchid mount or pot with tape.
4. Give us a copy of your plant list on Thursday when you bring your orchids and we will check them in. You keep your copy.
5. 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.

6. Plants can be brought to the church (show location) on Thursday afternoon, November 6th. 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.
7. 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! For questions please feel free to contact Irene at 831-521-0511



***Phragmipedium schlimii f. andreettae***  
Paph Paradise calls it ***Phragmipedium andreettae*** but Kew says that it is ***Phrag. schlimii form andreettae***. John bought it at Orchids in the park in bud and this is the third flower on a plant with one growth in a two inch pot.

## Learn Something

In addition to beautiful plants to admire – and purchase! – the annual Show & Sale always features some short, informative workshops to increase your orchid knowledge and appreciation. Some are provided by Carmel Orchid Society members; others by our vendors. This year's lineup includes:

### Friday, Nov. 7

**10:00 AM – Ten Easy Orchids to Try** – Want to branch out and buy something other than a Phalaenopsis, but not sure what you can grow? This is the discussion for you.

**11:30 AM – Repotting Phals** – When it's done blooming, don't throw it out! We'll show you how to refresh the bark, examine the roots and keep your Phalaenopsis healthy so it'll bloom again.

**1:00 PM – How to Keep Orchids Alive** – Expert grower Dennis Olivas shares his wealth of orchid care knowledge in this general presentation about keeping plants thriving.

### Saturday, Nov. 8

**10:00 AM – Dividing and Repotting Cymbidiums** – Cyms grow so well here that they can become massive. Then what? Well, you can make more than one plant out of 'em! We'll show you how.

**11:00 AM – Displaying and Mounting Orchids** – Not everything belongs in a pot! There are lots of ways to mount plants on bark, cork or other interesting surfaces, and we'll show you how easy it is to be creative and show off your orchids.



**1:00 PM – Ikebana Society** – Watch and learn about this traditional Japanese art of floral arrangement from local Ikebana Society members who have studied it for years.

Dennis Olivas giving his Orchids 101 class last year

## The Happy Hobbyist: Fighting Bugs

I 'inherited' some Phalaenopsis this fall, only to discover the pots were full of tiny ants – ugh! And earlier this year with my indoor orchids, I had to deal with an outbreak of mealybugs. But if you've got plants, you've got pests – and if you know how to fight them, you can take this in stride and not have to sacrifice your orchids.

Pests are the primary reason to quarantine any new orchid you bring home. Keep it away from others in your collection for at least two weeks – some people say even longer – to make sure it doesn't have bugs or a disease.



To deal with the ants, I set the plants in a well-ventilated plastic box with a small, enclosed container of liquid ant bait. I placed the box outside, far away from any other plants. After two weeks, the bait container was full – and the orchids were fine. I inspected and repotted each of them with clean, ant-free bark. Mission accomplished!

The mealybugs were a clue that my indoor plants weren't getting enough air circulation. They spread quickly among plants in close proximity and don't always look like bugs, but bits of cotton stuck in the crevices of spikes and leaves. I fight cotton with cotton – 70% isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab – to kill mealybugs and remove their stringy, white residue. I sometimes use Safer brand Insect-Killing Soap. Mealybugs are a type of scale, so this method also works for other scale infestations.

And of course, I remove the buggy plants from contact with others and check them often until I'm absolutely sure they're pest-free again, which can take a month or so, just to be safe.

Pest control can be a hassle, but if you really examine your plants during weekly watering, you can spot problems before they become major – and you won't have to toss the plant out!

**Chris Thomas**

## Minutes of the COS BoD meeting September 24, 2025

Amanda Nixon called the ZOOM meeting to order at 4:05. Present besides Amanda were: Irene, Cathy, Peter, Carolyn, Chris, Sonya, Albert, Anna, Janette.

The minutes from the August meeting were read and approved.

Janette gave her treasurer's report: Expenses were the BBQ plant table, \$281, the BBQ meat, \$90. Income was \$176 from the plant table raffle.

Carolyn gave the Vice Presidents report: Brandon Dichochea from the Santa Cruz Orchid Society will give a repotting demonstration of two of his orchids and talk about growing cool weather orchids. His fee is \$150 and he will provide a \$250 plant table. He has a landscaping business in Santa Cruz and takes care of orchid collections for several clients. We met him at the 2024 Greenhouse Tour here and again at the SCOS this summer.

Amanda read Kathie Ritter's report for the Fall Market naming all the committees and updates on the vendors. She has added Johnny Artiago (succulents and cactus) and Alejandro Hayes with perennials. She will ask Sonya to call around to members for contributions to the Society Display table of blooming orchids that John will install. She asked that we contact her if we have any problems. She is working on a solution to block the wind from coming in down the outdoor church

corridor.

Peter described his work for flyers to go out in local businesses for the Fall Market. He is printing them and giving to us for distribution. Cathy will distribute them at the Marina Tree and Garden seed exchange on October 5th. Peter discussed the website contacts page for listing personal information. Everyone agreed names and offices only. He is simplifying the website and asked for suggestions.

Peter also told us about his work on membership and the Mail Chimp. The Board discussed receiving dues traditionally at the Fall Market but anytime will be accepted.

Cathy helped us set up dates for the 2026 meetings which were decided as follows: January 3; February 7; March 7; April 4; May 2; June 6; August 1; October 3, November Market 6 and 7; December 5, Holiday Party. The July event and the Fall Pot Luck will be determined at a later date since they do not involve the Church scheduling.

Anna will be doing her twice-yearly table at the October meeting. All orchid and any other sellable items should be brought to the meeting to raise funds for the group.

Albert stated he would like to see more social events such as happy hour, hikes (such as wild orchid hunting) where we could mingle and enjoy members. Members were interested in this.

Irene asked if the BBQ could be renamed Fall Pot Luck and the Christmas Party could be renamed Holiday Party. It was voted on and approved. Regular activities would not

be changed.

Cathy Walmsley will run the October meeting with help from Carolyn in Amanda's absence. She will ask if any members would like to run for office or be on the Board of Directors.

The next meeting is to be on October 20th via Zoom at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

**Irene Patton, Secretary**

## 2026 Board Nominations

**President:** Cathy Walmsley

**VP Program:** Carolyn Salmon

**Recording Secretary:** Irene Patton

**Treasurer:** Janette Ford

**Directors:**

Peter Janick (Membership)

Anna Narvaez-Helms

Amanda Nixon

Kathie Ritter (Show chairman)

Albert Satterfield

Sonya Weininger

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

Student \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

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



# FALL ORCHID MARKET

SEE, BUY, & LEARN ABOUT:  
Orchids • Succulents • Carnivores  
Ikebana • Tillandsia

**Friday - Saturday**  
**Nov. 7th & 8th, 2025**  
**9am-4pm**

Located at 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.  
Carmel, CA

SPECIAL EVENTS:  
Culture Talks  
Potting Demonstrations

presented by the  
**Carmel Orchid Society**  
[CarmelOrchidSociety.org/Events](https://CarmelOrchidSociety.org/Events)  
(831) 626-1120



Member Sales Plant Tags

|                                                                       |                             |                     |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Plant Name:</b><br><b>Flower Color:</b><br><b>Notes/Fragrance:</b> |                             |                     |              | <b>Price:</b>          |
| <b>Light:</b>                                                         | <b>High</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Low</b>   |                        |
| <b>Temp:</b>                                                          | <b>Warm</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Cool</b>  | <b>Hardy</b>           |
| <b>Water:</b>                                                         | <b>Dry Between Watering</b> |                     | <b>Moist</b> | <b>Dry Rest Period</b> |
| <b>Seller's Name:</b>                                                 |                             |                     | <b>Code:</b> |                        |

|                                                                       |                             |                     |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Plant Name:</b><br><b>Flower Color:</b><br><b>Notes/Fragrance:</b> |                             |                     |              | <b>Price:</b>          |
| <b>Light:</b>                                                         | <b>High</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Low</b>   |                        |
| <b>Temp:</b>                                                          | <b>Warm</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Cool</b>  | <b>Hardy</b>           |
| <b>Water:</b>                                                         | <b>Dry Between Watering</b> |                     | <b>Moist</b> | <b>Dry Rest Period</b> |
| <b>Seller's Name:</b>                                                 |                             |                     | <b>Code:</b> |                        |

|                                                                       |                             |                     |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Plant Name:</b><br><b>Flower Color:</b><br><b>Notes/Fragrance:</b> |                             |                     |              | <b>Price:</b>          |
| <b>Light:</b>                                                         | <b>High</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Low</b>   |                        |
| <b>Temp:</b>                                                          | <b>Warm</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Cool</b>  | <b>Hardy</b>           |
| <b>Water:</b>                                                         | <b>Dry Between Watering</b> |                     | <b>Moist</b> | <b>Dry Rest Period</b> |
| <b>Seller's Name:</b>                                                 |                             |                     | <b>Code:</b> |                        |

|                                                                       |                             |                     |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
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| <b>Light:</b>                                                         | <b>High</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Low</b>   |                        |
| <b>Temp:</b>                                                          | <b>Warm</b>                 | <b>Intermediate</b> | <b>Cool</b>  | <b>Hardy</b>           |
| <b>Water:</b>                                                         | <b>Dry Between Watering</b> |                     | <b>Moist</b> | <b>Dry Rest Period</b> |
| <b>Seller's Name:</b>                                                 |                             |                     | <b>Code:</b> |                        |

|                                                                       |                             |                     |              |                        |
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| <b>Water:</b>                                                         | <b>Dry Between Watering</b> |                     | <b>Moist</b> | <b>Dry Rest Period</b> |
| <b>Seller's Name:</b>                                                 |                             |                     | <b>Code:</b> |                        |

### COS Member Sale Plant List

Seller Code \_\_\_\_\_

Check in \_\_\_\_\_

Check out \_\_\_\_\_

SELLER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bring 2 copies of your completed form**  
**Price in whole dollar amounts only**

Check in & check out columns filled in by Sales Committee at the Show and Sale

[illegible]