

# The BackBulb

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y  
March 2026

March Meeting: **Saturday March 7th, 2PM** at the Church

## March Program

### Orchids in our Monterey Bay Area landscapes

Our February members meeting was well attended and very lively. One member asked this question. "What Orchids can you grow around here besides Cymbidiums and the Australian Dendrobiums?" Our March meeting will answer that question more fully. Five of us has put together a slide presentation of orchids that we grow in our yards, highlighting some very special plants. We will give you a printed sheet of more than 25 Orchids that can be successfully grown in the Monterey Bay area. This list was compiled by Deric Wenzler, who has been a member of our society for 46 years and lived in the Carmel Highlands all this time.



We will bring some of these orchids for you to view at the meeting. In addition we were able to get a great plant opportunity table from vendors at the POE in San Francisco!

**Laelia Santa  
Barbara Sunset,**  
grown and photo by  
Irene Patton

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Yadon's piperia

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 meeting.

**COS Officers**

**President**

Cathy Walmsley

**VP Program**

Carolyn Salmon

**Recording Secretary**

Irene Patton

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Janette Ford

**Directors**

Peter Janick

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Kathie Ritter

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Carmel, CA

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**BackBulb Editor**

John OConnell

**Membership**

Peter Janick

**Show Chairman**

Kathie Ritter

**Upcoming Events**

**March**

3/7 Saturday 2pm COS March Meeting

3/21 Cutting Day Monterey

3/20-22 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Fair Grounds, Santa Barbara

**April**

4/4 Saturday 2pm COS April Meeting



Zygo hybrid by Fred Clarke purchased at our Fall Market last year. Photo Chris Thomas

**March Members Donation Sale Table**

Attention all members! Those of you with extra cool items, or stuff you no longer use, unique or quirky garden or plant related objects, tools etc. If you think a fellow member would be willing to pay a few bucks for it bring it to the March meeting. Anna will be accepting any donation to sell for our speaker fund. Please have an idea of the value to start, will be negotiating so everyone will be pleased. Spring will be here in no time. This is a great way to build enthusiasm for the new season and help our club.

## Yadon's piperia: A Joint Effort Keeps a Local Orchid Thriving



*Piperia yadonii*, photographer: John Game (via Wikimedia commons)

For many years, people on the Central Coast have worked to keep a native orchid alive that was listed as endangered in 1998 – and they're still at it.

Yadon's piperia (*Piperia yadonii*) is a rein orchid, so named because its slender spikes look, to some, like reins on horses. It was discovered in 1925.

Prunedale's Manzanita Park is one place where Yadon's piperia has been spotted. At Veterans Memorial Park, a few plants are growing near the campground area, fenced to keep the deer away. There have been recent sightings near the Monterey airport. Some are located off a trail in the SFB Morse Botanical Reserve; others near the Navy Postgraduate School. And on The Presidio of Monterey, Yadon's piperia grows in several places.

"Both the Army and Navy are working on protecting this orchid," says Julia Parish, natural resources program manager for The Presidio. "Since the 1990s, we've worked to monitor its population and manage habitat."

As anyone who grows orchids knows, this isn't easy! And this one is especially challenging. It is a terrestrial orchid that requires sandy soil with a particular type of fungus. Its tubers can remain dormant underground – and even when its first two long leaves emerge from the soil, there's no guarantee that a flower spike will follow.

When it does bloom, the big event is usually between May and August. Spikes can grow up to 20 inches tall, with striped leaves and white flowers that are fragrant in the evening.

On The Presidio, "Do Not Disturb" signs are in place in orchid habitat areas, along with placards along trails that describe the plant's importance.

Others are also doing their part to nurture Yadon's piperia. Ten years ago,

52 were transplanted to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, where the orchid's namesake, Vern Yadon, was the longtime director. How did it go?



Warning sign at the Presidio of Monterey. Photo by John Goulette

“We do have one struggling soul that came up this year,” says Liese Murphree, the museum’s director of education and outreach. The museum’s Native Plant Garden is in the process of being redesigned, however, so who knows whether more will pop up there in the future?

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation got a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to survey potential rein orchid habitat in the slough. According to Dash Dunkell with the California Native Plant Society, they harvested some seed from Yadon’s piperia in 2024, spread it in promising areas and are monitoring the results. It’s good to know a long-term local



*Piperia yadonii* in spike in it's native envionment. Photo U.S. Army

effort is underway to keep it thriving as an important food source for pollinators – and a delight for orchid lovers.

**Chris Thomas**

## Important Dates for COS 2026

March 21, Cutting Day, Monterey  
March 20-22 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Fairgrounds Santa Barbara  
April 4, Monthly meeting, CCMP  
April 18-19, Gold Coast Cymbidium Society/POS joint show, San Mateo Garden Center  
May 2, Monthly meeting, CCMP  
May 2-3, Carmel Valley Flower Show, Hidden Valley Music Seminars Carmel Valley Village  
May 9, MEarth Day  
June 6, Monthly meeting, CCMP  
July COS Greenhouse tour  
July 25-26, Orchids in the Park, SF County Fair Building  
August 1, Monthly meeting, CCMP  
August 22-23, West End Celebration, Sand City  
September 19, COS Annual Picnic, location TBD  
October 8-10, COS Fall Market, CCMP  
November 7, Monthly meeting, CCMP  
December 5, COS Holiday Party, CCMP

## Minutes of the COS BOD Meeting Feb. 9, 2026

The meeting was held by Zoom and began at 6:08. Presiding was Cathy Walmsley, president. Attending were Sonya, Kathie, Cathy, Albert, Irene, Carolyn, Peter and Janette.

The minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer reported the bank balance, memberships, donations and expenses. At the February meeting there were 5 new members and renewals and the plant table brought in \$135. We paid the church \$70 for rent.

The VP report was given by Carolyn. She has an idea for the March meeting: What Grows Outdoors? We noted that Deric compiled a list when he gave a previous talk to the Society. Albert said we have speakers inside our group; Peter said where we individually live influences our plants grown. Carolyn



*Cattleya purpurata var sanguinea* X *Cattleya pumila*,  
Grown and photo by Chris Thomas

will coordinate 4-5 members to prepare presentations on growing our orchids outdoors. We will send photos to Peter for a slideshow for the March meeting.

We will invite the Begonia Society to our March meeting hoping to share ideas with them.

Carolyn is ordering plants for our March table from Brookside to be picked up at the POE. She reported positive feedback on the February meeting which had 27 attendees. She proposed a show and tell featuring items purchased at the POE event from the last weekend in February.

Peter will post an announcement for carpooling to the POE to all members by email with a way for them to RSVP for a ride. We explored taking a bus to SF but there were not enough members interested in this.

Future meetings were discussed, confirming the meeting date of May 2nd which is also the Carmel Valley Flower Show where we hope to have an information booth. We decided to do both the scheduled meeting and the Flower Show and arrangements are being made.

We hope to have a wild orchid walk, and this was discussed. Anna's brother is researching park district locations. Albert offered to lead the group in an outdoor walk. Information is being looked for in wildflower books. We also discussed Anna's sale table for March and November. Anna will do a write up for the Back Bulb and we will get this on the events calendar.

Peter discussed the Mailchimp regulations for member numbers. He

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

wants to enhance our COS website with daily orchid pictures and for members to be able to pay dues online, making the website overall more dynamic. Some photos would be automated and pictures from the Back Bulb would rotate. He proposed a budget of \$50/month or \$600/year so he could see what is available. The group was interested in this idea. Carolyn suggested he contact FCOS to view their web set up. Peter stated that in the past the Society has made contact info from members available to all. If we want to change this, we need clear guidelines for sharing information to members. He may contact Sherry Wagner in SC on Sonya's suggestion for website info.

Irene suggested we have a host for

each meeting to greet members and guests at the door and steer them into the meeting. She will work in March and Sonya will volunteer for April's meeting. A sign-up will be made for future hosts.

Janette and Peter will work on contacting past members who have not yet paid dues.

Sonya asked about the new Fall Market dates and Kathie discussed her contacting of the vendors and pricing considerations for them. She will soon talk to heads of the committees.

The next Board meeting is March 9th at 6 pm on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14

**Irene Patton Secretary**

**C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y**  
**2026 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

	<b>Membership</b>
Single	<b>\$35</b> _____
Couple	<b>\$50</b> _____
Vendor	<b>\$50</b> _____
Student	<b>\$15</b> _____
Add an additional <b>\$10</b> to receive the newsletter via USPS	



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

**Sign-Up for 3/21/26 Bus Trip to Ikebana International San Francisco Flower Show  
Please print and send with check.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee \$40.00 (includes \$8 Entrance Fee)**

Make **check to I.I.M.B.C. #231** for \$40

**Mail your check** to our treasurer by March 14, 2026:

**Yana Shevchenko (Ikebana)**

**1451 Via Marettimo**

**Monterey, CA 93940**

Or

**ZELLE: to pay by Zelle, contact Yana at (650) 455-3534.** You can then email your completed form to Yana (ask for her email address) or mail to the address above.



**3/21/26**  
**Depart Monterey: 7:30 am** meet at bus stop **behind Macy's in Del Monte Center**. Bus departs promptly at 7:45am.  
  
Depart San Francisco: 1:45pm; arrive back in Monterey approximately 4:00pm.