

The BackBulb

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

April Meeting: Saturday April 4th, 2PM at the Church

April Program: Growing Cymbidiums

Webinar with George Hatfield

April's meeting program will feature the first half of George Hatfield's AOS Cymbidium culture webinar in preparation for the area's next big orchid show sponsored by the Gold Coast Cymbidium Society and the Pacific Orchid Society at the San Mateo Garden Center on April 18-19. We know some members of our Society are eager to attend, and we hope this will inspire many more of you to join us.

George Hatfield is a California hybridizer of Cymbidiums and a past president of the American Orchid Society. His webinar will guide us in selecting and growing these beautiful orchids for our area.



May's program will include the second half of his webinar, plus a bonus Cymbidium potting demonstration.

**Cymbidium Australian
Midnight 'Tinonee'** HCC/AOS
at SBIOS 2024 photo John

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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.

COS Officers

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Cathy Walmsley

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Irene Patton

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Show Chairman

Kathie Ritter

Upcoming Events

April

4/4 Saturday 2pm COS April Meeting

May

5/2 Saturday 2pm COS May meeting

5/2-3 Carmel Valley Flower Show, Hidden Valley Music Seminars Carmel Valley Village

5/9 MEarth Day

Invitation to the April Begonia Society meeting

The Begonia Society and our Society are sharing programs and meeting times. The Begonias meet the 3rd Monday of the month at the Moose Lodge in Del Ray Oaks at 1 pm. Several times a year meetings are at members' homes. We will announce those meetings as the month arrives. The April meeting will be a "bring your own lunch" at the home of Guy Rodriquez on April 20th at 1 pm. Guy is both a COS member and a Begonia Society member and specializes in Tillandsias, bromeliads, begonias and orchids. The address is 954 Mesa Road in Monterey. Car pool if you can. The meeting usually lasts 2 hours. Questions: call Irene at 831-521-0511



The COS table at Cutting day on March 21st. Photo by Irene

2026 Pacific Orchid Exposition



Top left: The always amazing Bay Area Pleurothalid Alliance Wardarian Case

Bottom left: a Dracula hanging from the baskets at the top of the case

Top right: The D&D Flowers exhibit, winner of a **Best Interpretation of theme** (Orchid Obscura)

Bottom right: **Cymbidium Exeter Jadeite 'Cracie'** a hybrid of mostly Chinese Cymbidium species, registered by Ken Jacobsen in 2024

All Photos by John



2026 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show



The theme of this years show was **Orchid Escape** and several exhibits illustrated the theme quite well.

Top left: The Five Cities Orchid Society came up with a very literal interpretation

Top right: The poster was an interesting take on the theme for an otherwise standard exhibit


Bottom: Several exhibits created scenes of escaping to a place with orchids. On the **left**, a beach and on the **right** a drawing room complete with several framed orchids.





**HONORING PAUL GRIPP
SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE**

The Show bids a warm farewell to Paul Gripp, "The Orchid Man," who died in January 2026 at the age of 93. Paul was a Director of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and past owner of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate.



Paul earned a degree in horticulture from UCLA and served in the Navy before coming to Santa Barbara as the then manager of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. His fascination with orchids led him to visit their natural habitats in the Philippines, Myanmar (then Burma), India, the high Andes, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, New Guinea, Australia, Europe and Africa. His entertaining storytelling made him a popular speaker in the United States, a number of foreign countries and at multiple World Orchid Conferences. He was a life-long student of orchids who shared his knowledge in hundreds of articles and as editor of orchid publications.

Paul exhibited at the Show for several decades as the Santa Barbara Orchid Garden and Library, sharing not only his plants but his rich collection of orchid art and memorabilia. His displays were awarded by both the Show and the American Orchid Society for their educational content, with blooming species or historical hybrids interspersed with artwork and interesting histories from the world of orchids.

Paul's unique charm and self-deprecating humor made orchids both accessible and engaging to the orchid curious and the seasoned grower. As "The Orchid Man" he touched an enormous number of people with his love of orchids. He will be missed by many fellow students of orchids.

Top right: I learned of the passing of Paul Gripp (founder of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate) in the show program. Last year it was Jim Rose (Co-owner of Cal-Orchid across the street from SBOE). It seems like the

end of an era and only time will tell how long their nurseries will exist, for the time being both are open for business. Let us hope that they continue to be in some for or fashion since our hobby, or passion, depends of nurseries like this that offer a wide variety of quality hybrids and species. Our society

Paul was an amazing speaker, he traveled up here in 2011 & 2013 with van full of orchids to illustrate his talk, his passion for the plants was infectious. I remember talking to him at the SBOE open house during last years SBIOS, he may have needed a cane to walk but he was still chatting up any customer that came by, he will be missed.

Left: Being Santa Barbara, there were many nice Cymbidiums in both exhibits and for sale. The Cymbidium at left was in one of the exhibits, sorry I don't have the name of the plant or the exhibitor, I was getting carried away playing with a new camera.

Photos by John



The Santa Barbara show also has orchid themed floral arrangements and art
Photos by John



Important Dates for COS 2026

- 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 Field trip
- 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, at the Patton's house
- October 8-10, COS Fall Market, CCMP
- November 7, Monthly meeting, CCMP
- December 5, COS Holiday Party, CCMP

Minutes of the COS BOD Meeting March 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Walmsley, President, at 6 pm, by Zoom. Attending were: Cathy, Peter, Irene, Carolyn, Kathie, Sonya, Albert, Amanda and Janette. The minutes of the last board meeting of February 9th were approved as published in the March Back Bulb.

Carolyn gave the VP report. She led a discussion of possibilities for the April meeting. Amanda praised the slide show members gave for the March meeting. Carolyn got a confirmation for Tim Culbertson to speak for the June 6th meeting and will discuss logistics with him. She will pursue additional April meeting speaker options, and we will have an AOS webinar as a backup plan. She agreed to contact the Native Plant Society for a talk about orchids at Point Lobos. We are hoping to arrange a field



Encyclia bractescens in John's greenhouse, Photo by John

trip there to see orchids in the wild. Peter suggested we talk to them as Cutting Day.

Anna's table was discussed and Cathy suggested moving it closer to the refreshments for more successful sales.

The Board discussed contact information sharing policies, agreeing to implement an automatic opt-in system where members' contact details would be shared unless they explicitly opt out. Peter will draft a formal policy for review at the next meeting.

Janette gave the treasurer's report. She said we had 5 new/renewed memberships at the March meeting. Peter presented a proposal to use Square's free website platform to process online membership renewals with a transaction fee of 30c plus 3.3 per cent of the amount. Carolyn and Janette raised concerns about tax implications and Peter agreed to check with Square about tax requirements.

The group also discussed a potential website upgrade with Peter estimating costs between \$25-\$50 per month. Currently Top Choice Hosting is charging \$45 per year.

Cutting Day is March 21st and an info table will be from 9-12 noon with four volunteers bringing fertilizer samples, handouts, a Market poster and blooming orchids.

The group agreed to allow members to sell orchids at our meetings. Carolyn said it has been done in the past without issues. We agreed that we would not bring plants to sell if the speaker had his own plants.

We also agreed unanimously to make

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Deric Wenzler an honorary member in recognition of his many years in the COS. This would allow him to continue to sell at the Fall Market.

Amanda has submitted our application for the West End Celebration table.

Members John and Chris will be going to the Santa Barbara Orchid Show on the weekend of Cutting Day.

Irene will get the Begonia Society meeting schedule to John for the next Back Bulb.

Terry Zabala has agreed to take photos for our group.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08. The April Board meeting is the 13th at 4:30 at Irene and Rudy's home.

Irene Patton Secretary



Ophrys speculum a European terrestrial on John's porch. It is pollinated by male *Dasyscolia ciliata* wasps who are lured in by the flowers resemblance to the female wasp. A classic pseudocopulation pollination method.

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 _____	Membership
If you were referred by a current member, please provide his/her name _____	Single \$35 _____
	Couple \$50 _____
	Vendor \$50 _____
	Student \$15 _____
	Add an additional \$10 to receive the newsletter via USPS
Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	
Member of the American Orchid Society <input type="checkbox"/>	