

The BackBulb

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

May Meeting: **Saturday May 2nd, 2PM at the Church**

May Program: Growing Cymbidiums

Webinar with George Hatfield Part 2

May's meeting program will feature the second half of George Hatfield's AOS Cymbidium culture webinar. There will also be a Cymbidium repotting demonstration.

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.



Left: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* 'sparksii' an Australian Cymbidium.

Right: *Cymbidium Alcor* 'Embers' a cross between *Cym. Simulans* and *Cym. Canaliculatum*

Both grown and photographed by John

- 1**
May Program
- 2**
Upcoming Events
Book Review
- 3**
Encyclias

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.

COS Officers

President

Cathy Walmsley

VP Program

Carolyn Salmon

Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

Treasurer

Janette Ford

Directors

Peter Janick

Anna Narvaez-

Helms

Amanda Nixon

Kathie Ritter

Albert Satterfield

Sonya Weininger

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

BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

Membership

Peter Janick

Show Chairman

Kathie Ritter

Upcoming Events

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

June

6/6 COS June Meeting

Enter Your Orchids in the Carmel Valley Flower Show

Our Society is invited to show our potted orchids, 12" pots or less, in the Flower Show again this year. If you have a good one blooming, please consider entering it to promote our group to all the people at the show. Amanda, Carolyn, Kathie and Irene have entered in the past. Irene will fill out your card description and take your plant to the show if you can get it to her by 5 pm, Thursday, April 30th. Address: 1188 Jewell Ave, in Pacific Grove. (831-521-0511) Peter, Rudy and Irene will take plants to enter on Friday afternoon when they set up our COS table for the Garden Show weekend. In addition to all the flower entries, there is a great photography exhibit, you can see vendors with lots of plants, an auction and a Woody's Cafe! For info, www.cvgc.clubexpress.com and go to the Flower Show tab. Located at Hidden Valley in Carmel Valley with ample parking.



Irene won first place in the Orchid division with this **Cymbidium Gold Cup** in 2024



It's Encyclia time in John's greenhouse and the 3 blooming now are:

- Top:** *Encyclia microbulbon*
- Left:** *Encyclia Knoydart Spring*
- Below:** *Encyclia Rioclarensis*





Above: Cathy Walmsley's *Epipactis gigantea* (A California native), grown by the California Native Plant Society
Right: *Dendrobium insigne* in John's greenhouse



Book Review

***The Flower of Empire, An Amazonian Water Lily, the Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created* by Tatiana Holway**

A friend gave me this book, knowing I loved flowers, but it is about more than just flowers! It covers the Victorian era exploration of the quest in South America for the huge leaf, night blooming, thorny flower that could grow an inch an hour. Along the way, our

hero, Robert Schomburgk, interacts with Darwin, Dickens, Banks, Lindley, Cattley, Paxton, Hooker, Humboldt and Queen Victoria herself. We see the influence of Kings, Dukes and Duchesses on this botanical era. Wild orchids are collected and ported on ships from South America in Wardian cases to feed the orchid mania of the time. The glass houses for private collections are developed, Kew Gardens rises, falls and is reborn while the Crystal Palace is built. An exciting read, if you like real adventure in the natural history world.

Irene Patton.

Left: *Guarianthe skinneri alba*

Right: *Dendrobium aggregatum*

Both grown and photos by Carolyn



Important Dates for COS 2026

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 5, 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 April 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Walmsley, president, at 4:40 pm at the Patton home. Attending were Cathy, Kathie Ritter, Irene, Carolyn, Peter, Amanda, Janette and Anna. Sonya attended by Zoom.

Peter distributed an updated members list, and the Board approved the minutes from the last meeting in March.

Carolyn gave the VP report: the program for May's meeting will be the second half of the AOS Webinar by George Hatfield on Cymbidiums with a potting demo by her and Irene. Brandon will provide the plant table. For June, the program will be our guest speaker, Tim Culbertson from Oceanside. We discussed accommodations for him and his topic, Lycastes. He will provide the plant table. A repotting program was suggested for members, maybe for the September picnic.

Also in the VP report was a hopeful field



Chysis bractescens in John's greenhouse

trip for July to replace the Greenhouse Tour.

Sonya suggested we contact Bill Weaver on the topic of pests and viruses; he recently spoke at the SCOS. She also reminded us of Audrey's Cymbidium talk to their society.

The Treasurer gave her report. We got 5 new members last month at the March meeting with 2 renewals. The PO expense for box rental was \$188; insurance was billed at \$325. Amanda will review the insurance policy for us. We reviewed the possibility of obtaining insurance from membership in the CA Garden Club, Inc. Other expense was \$250 for March plant table to Brandon in Santa Cruz.

Amanda reviewed the West End Celebration registration for us. She obtained our SIC# for our C-5 corporation to file the application. West End is the 22nd and 23rd of August. We discussed tents for our booth and their requirements.

Irene asked the Board if we should follow the idea from FCOS in showing member grown plants and their growing conditions. Everyone agreed and she and Peter will help coordinate that with John for the BackBulb and later for the website.

We talked about the upcoming Carmel Valley Flower Show on May 2-3 and our info table there. We got volunteers and agreed to attend the COS meeting on Saturday, the 2nd, leaving the table with info,

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

returning for the Sunday show. Irene encouraged members to enter orchids in the Flower Show by going to the CV Garden Club website to get info on the registration, (cvgc.clubexpress.com). She offered to take plants and print entry cards for anyone by Thursday, April 30th. Peter, Rudy and Irene will set up on Friday, May 1st.

Peter discussed his proposed consent form for the members of the Society. We agreed that more member security might be a good way forward and that an email will be sent to all members so that they can be prepared for discussion during the May meeting. Then the Board will consider the options.

Sonya announced she is happy to be the liaison between us and the Santa

Cruz Society. She, Cathy and Deric are attending meetings of the SCOS.

Kathie Ritter discussed the Fall Market and told us that Chris Thomas would shadow her for her job in managing the Market. She hopes to have a meeting of all chairmen of the committees later this month or next.

Cabrillo college has a yearly plant sale of several groups this month that Anna recommended to us. She was able to obtain some terrestrial orchids in pots.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, May 11th at Kathie Ritter's home at 3 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

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

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