



The Backbulb

www.carmelorchidsociety.com

The Carmel Orchid Society

Volume 50, Number 3

March 2007

March Speaker Joe Parker

Joe Parker has a BS from Stanford and a PhD from Caltech in Mathematics, which left him totally unprepared to grow orchids. As a result, Joe was forced to earn a living in academia and the high tech world. He only started growing orchids about 8 years ago, on a challenge from his wife, Kathy. Refusing to settle for less than the best, Joe grows Draculas, and



Pleurothallis pectinata
Grown by Joe Parker

only Draculas. His collection of over 300 Draculas, representing at least 100 species, grows in Los Gatos and Pacifica. Joe is now Vice President of the Pleurothallis Alliance and on a mission to convince the world that Draculas are not only worth growing, but easy.

Please join us and welcome Joe for what should be a most interesting evening.

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From Our President

SELLING ORCHIDS AT THE MAYFAIRE 2007

This is a good time of year to decide which plants you would like to sell at the MayFaire. Perhaps you have more than one of a specific plant or you need to downsize your collection so that you can buy more during the MayFaire. Members (only members) of the Carmel Orchids Society may sell their orchid plants at the COS Sales Table during the May Faire. Plants, which are presented for sale, must be disease and pest-free *and* attractive. A good rule-of-thumb is to ask yourself.... ***Would I buy this plant?***

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Pleurothallis Culture

The Pleurothallids (Masdevallia, Dracula, Pleurothallis and many other genera) originate primarily from Central and South America. The genera contains thousands of very different species that come in almost every color, size & shape imaginable! Their flowers are dominated by their sepals and they have relatively insignificant petals and lips. However, the sepals are often very colorful.

Many Orchid connoisseurs favor Pleurothallids because they can flower many times per year, often producing multiple blooms each time.

Temperatures: Most species grow in a "cool to intermediate" range (50-58°F nights). Day-time temperatures should be 10-20°F above the night-time low. Fortunately, many of the species tolerate a much broader range. Strive for a nighttime temp as close as possible to the 50-55°F nights and then locate them in as cool a place as possible during the summer months. In the summer many people place them outside in a shady, cool spot. Better yet - grow them in a cool & humid greenhouse.

Keep in mind that many people use the phrases "Warm growing" & "Warm Tolerant" as though they were the same thing! This is often misleading as there are relatively few truly "warm preferring" Pleurothallids while there are many that are "warm tolerant" (please read as "Intermediate growing"). Even Pleurothallid specialists often refer to some as being "warm" but most often that simply conforms to the traditional orchid terminology as "Intermediate" growing conditions.

Humidity: The Pleurothallids like a relatively high humidity around 75%. Short periods of lower humidity may be tolerated (lower humidity is tolerated briefly during the day if it

can climb much higher during the nights), but results are always obtained if the growing environment is a stable and uniform one.

Lighting: They enjoy low light ranges from 800 to 1200 foot candles. Paphiopedilums or Phalaenopsis like a similar light range. Use the orchids as a guide. If their leaves become yellowish, it may be too bright. If they turn a deep, dark green it could be too shady (or improper fertilizer proportions). Less light in summer is sometimes better than too much as it lessens the stress that they may be enduring at that time.

Moisture: The Pleurothallids enjoy moisture. Without pseudobulbs, they have nowhere, other than in their leaves, in which to store water. Therefore, they should never be dry for more than a few hours at a time. Best results will be found by keeping the media lightly moist but never soggy and wet. Many do not like a high mineral content in their water. If possible, use collected rain water. Many people use de-ionized, distilled, reverse osmosis or other sources of good quality water in order to optimize growth.

Feeding: The Pleurothallids are NOT heavy feeders. Use a "balanced" fertilizer at about 1/4 strength every 2 or 3 weeks. Less when plants may be under stress. Always flush well with plain water between fertilizing. Bark based mediums may require additional Nitrogen but please realize that excess nitrogen causes increased breakdown of their moist bark media.

Media: The Media choices for these, as well as most orchids, seem nearly endless. Commonly used ones are fine Bark, Tree-fern, Sphagnum moss, Rock wool, perlite & usually a combination of one or more of these. Many recipes abound

(Continued on page 5)



2007 Roster

We will be taking photos for the 2007 roster at the March and April meetings. All members whose photo is not in the current roster should plan on having a photo taken at the meeting or submitting one themselves.

Dues are required by January 1st and are delinquent if not paid by Mayfaire or the first weekend in May. Delinquent members will not be listed in the 2007 Roster printed in June.

If you joined the Society during the fourth quarter of 2006, your dues are paid for 2007.

Treasurer's Report January, 2007



Checkbook Balance on January. 1	\$ 6,609.21
January Income	3,187.00
January Expenses	<425.00>
Checkbook Balance on January 31	\$ 9,371.21
CD Balance on January 15 was	\$ 8,114.78

A Reminder ... If you are enrolling as a new member, or are simply renewing your membership, please make sure that we have your **current** address and telephone number (and **Email**, if you have one). We want to make sure you get your *Backbulb* regularly! Use the form below to make any changes, please.

Another Reminder ... **If your Email address changes please notify the Backbulb Editor at carmelorchsociety@msn.com.**

Carmel Orchid Society, Inc.

Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to:

Carmel Orchid Society—Membership
c/o Lori Siegmund
180 Alta Mira Court, Aptos, CA 95003-4903

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter via E-Mail	Receive Newsletter via US Mail
Single	\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor	\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

Application for Membership — Please print

Date _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Member of the
American Orchid Society?

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Yes No

Email address _____

New Member Renewal



Upcoming Events

Check Our Website For More Events

Next Regular Carmel Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

NOTE THE NEW MEETING TIME

Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:00pm (First Monday of every month)

The First Presbyterian Church

501 El Dorado Street, Monterey, CA 93940

Carmel Orchid Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00pm

The meeting will be held at the home of Susan Segal, 1425 Deer Flat Rd., Monterey.

Monterey Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 7:00pm (Second Tuesday of every month)

At the Lincoln Ave Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA. For more information, call (831) 663-3953.

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show

March 3-4, Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA.

Contact: Marilyn Bucher, PO Box 21, Pointe Area, CA 95468; (707) 882-2415; mbucher@mcn.org.

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Show

March 30-April 1, Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose, CA. (408) 355-4745

www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org

Five Cities Orchid Society Show

March 31-April 1, Arroyo Grande Regional Center, 800 Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA. (805) 489-9046

info@fcos.org.

White Oak Orchids Open House Saturday March 10th, 2007 from 11 am to 4 pm 25,000 square feet of high tech orchid paradise. Well grown plants from miniature to massive. Kitties, too! For more information: **650-355-8767** www.whiteoakorchids.com 1204 Linda Mar Blvd. Unit A, Pacifica CA 94044



Sonoma County Orchid Society
invites you to our
ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

Orchids & Exotics
Orchid Show and Sale

March 3-4, 2007 • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission \$7.00

Santa Rosa Veterans Building
www.sonomaorchids.com

1351 Maple Ave. • Santa Rosa, CA (across from the Fairgrounds)

You Ought to Be in Pictures!

The debut of including member photos in the 2006 COS Membership Roster booklet was well received. The Board would like to continue this effort as we plan for and prepare the 2007 roster, which will be distributed at the June 4, 2007 Birthday Party and Potluck Dinner.

Board members Ken Ashton and Lori Siegmund will have their digital cameras at the March 5 and April 2 meetings, as well as at the MayFaire. We will be specifically targeting 2007 members whose photos were missing from the 2006 roster, as well as new mem-

bers. If you have already renewed your 2007 dues and would like to have a new photo taken and included in the 2007 membership roster, please be sure to contact Lori or Ken for your very own 'photo session' at one of the next two meetings or at the MayFaire. Please note that there is no regular May meeting this year. The 2007 roster will need to be ready for printing and collating shortly after the MayFaire in order to be ready in time for distribution the Birthday Party and Potluck in June.

Lori Siegmund

lori.siegmund@sbcglobal.net



Orchid Growing Tips *By Carolyn Salmon*

Spring is the ideal season to repot cymbidiums. I usually do this in May after most have finished blooming. Most cymbidiums have a slug or two living deep within the pot feeding on the new root tips. They typically crawl up through the drainage holes. When you repot this spring, consider lining the bottom portion of the pot with fiberglass window screening to effectively protect the drainage holes from slug incursions. You may find this window screening at Orchard Supply Hardware by the foot or in prepackaged rolls.

Not ready to repot, but have cymbidiums with several dormant backbulbs? Gently twist some of the healthiest looking bulbs to break them away from the underlying rhizome. This will tell the dormant eyes on the bulb to sprout new green leaves. Many growers use this technique because it saves time and space. If the bulb never sprouts, you can throw it away. The other option is to place groups of two or three bulb groups in a separate pot to sprout when dividing your larger cymbidiums. You may even speed this process by putting backbulbs in a plastic bag in an egg carton to keep them upright while they sprout.

Some will add a small amount of moist vermiculite to the bag for the bulb to set in. You

want the bulb upright so the new growth points upwards as you replant the bulb in new bark. It can take a few months for some bulbs to sprout, so don't give up too soon!

Many orchid societies have websites on the internet these days. Ours is a fine example. Check out the Houston Orchid Society at www.houstonorchidsociety.org. They have a nice site complete with orchid articles and a new one on vanda culture. Cal West Tropicals is a good supplier for orchid hobbyists located in Southern California. Their website is www.calwesttropical.com. Their shipping costs are much cheaper than Charlie's Greenhouse supplies located in Washington State.

Thank goodness spring is almost here. Time to resume your fertilizing your orchids after a winter's rest.

Carolyn Salmon, cargie@yahoo.com

Editor's note

We would love to start having beautiful orchid pictures to include in the Backbulb again, especially ones from members. Feel free to send me pictures, but also include as much identification as possible.

Pleurothallis Culture

(Continued from page 2)

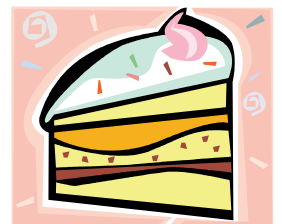
although a favored one by many consists of a mix of medium grade Tree-Fern and chopped sphagnum. This is often combined with the use of clay pots which can help to maintain cool roots. The author grows them in sphagnum moss in open-sided plastic net pots ...or wooden Baskets if they're large plants.

Culture sheet is courtesy of Mountain Orchids, Ludlow, VT. www.mountainorchids.com

March Goodies Providers

Goodies for the March meeting will be provided by:

- Debra Majcher-Gore
- Ellie Mamon
- John Mockett
- Kazuko Mockett
- Norma Walch





From Our President *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

James Nybakken is in charge of the Plant Table this year and James has asked us to remind members to.....

1. **Fill out the sales tag as completely as possible.** A plant with appropriate name and references will sell much easier than one with little identification.
2. **Attach the sales tag with masking tape or string to the pot.** This way it can be removed and you will receive credit (\$\$) for the sale. Scotch tape sticks to the tags and tears them creating problems in reading the tags.
3. **Bring the plants on Friday afternoon, May 4th between 12noon and 5pm.** There is storage space and the plants will be displayed as they are received. Plants may also be brought in on Saturday or Sunday morning just before 9am and shall be put on the sales table as space is available.

4. **Plants that don't sell must be picked up at 4:30pm on Sunday, May 6th or they will be discarded or donated.** The Society can not be responsible for plants not picked up at the designated time.

Plants that have flowers or a picture to show what the flower looks like sell first! Plants with references – pedigree – are sold readily. Plants with appropriate pricing sell well. The volunteers at the Sales Table are not allowed to alter the price on your plant, therefore, you might want to come by several times during the sale and check on your plants. That way you can adjust prices if it seems warranted.

A 10% of each sale goes to COS and is part of our primary fund-raisers during the year. If you have questions about the Sales Table or would like to help during the May Faire, please sign up at the March or April meeting. If you need assistance in pricing your plants, please ask a member for help when you bring them in.

Carol Easton

Officers of the Carmel Orchid Society

President	Carol Easton	eastonce@aol.com
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Recording Secretary	Joanie Linares	linares55@aol.com
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Director	Elizabeth Coelho	elizabethkc@comcast.net
Director	Jim Nybakken	jnybakken@redshift.com
Director	Ida Hale	imaryhale@aol.com

56th Annual
Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society
**Orchid Show
And Sale**

PUBLIC INVITED. ADMISSION FREE
MARCH 30, 31, APRIL 1

ORCHID SALE - Friday 9:00-9:00, Saturday 9:00-8:00, Sunday 9:00-5:00
ORCHID SHOW - Saturday noon-8:00, Sunday 9:00-5:00

WESTGATE MALL
1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose
www.shopatwestgatemall.com
North East of Prospect/Campbell Ave. and Saratoga Ave. Intersection

OVER 3,000 ORCHIDS FOR SALE



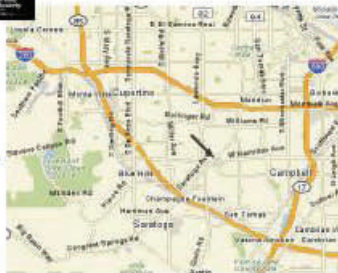
**DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO
WESTGATE MALL**

From Hwy 85
Take Saratoga Ave. north 1.3 miles, turn right on Graves.

From Hwy 17/880
Take Hamilton Ave. west 2.6 miles, turn right on Sagemont.

From Hwy 280/680
Take Saratoga Ave. south 1.7 miles, turn left on Graves.

FOR INFORMATION CALL: 408-355-4745



WELCOME
TO THE 62ND ANNUAL
SANTA BARBARA
INTERNATIONAL

ORCHID SHOW



**MARCH 16, 17 & 18 2007
EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS
3400 CALLE REAL
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA**

**MAILING ADDRESS & PHONE
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SANTA BARBARA, CA 93150-5814
PH: (805) 969-5746
FX: (805) 456-3040
SBORCHID@WEST.NET**

**Orchid
treasures**



12th annual central coast
orchid show & sale

March 31 & April 1, 2007

SHOW HOURS: SAT. 9-5 SUN. 10-5 GENERAL ADMISSION: \$5 Children under 12 FREE
south county regional center 800 W. BRANCH, ARROYO GRANDE, CA
(SEE THE MAP ON OUR WEB SITE FOR DIRECTIONS.)

SHOW INFO: www.fcos.org or 805.929.5749

SPONSORED BY FIVE CITIES ORCHID SOCIETY

DON'T MISS SOMETHING'S COOKING CATERING SERVING LUNCH AND GOODIES AT THE SHOW

alzheimer's association

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER, INC.

show preview benefit **Friday, March 30 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**
CENTRAL COAST WINES, HORS D'OEUVRES, LIVE MUSIC & SILENT AUCTION
PREVIEW TICKETS: \$35 A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE. CALL 805.484.3991 OR 805.929.5749
VISIT WWW.CENTRALCOASTALZ.ORG TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

FREE ENTRY UNDER 12 YEARS IS A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION. www.centralcoastalzheimer.org #centralcoastprinting

New Location

Carmel Orchid Society Presents

**May Faire
Orchid Show & Sale**

Saturday May 5th 9am - 6 pm
Sunday May 6th 9 am - 4 pm

AMERICAN TIN CANNERY

125 Ocean View Blvd., Pacific Grove
across from the Monterey Bay Aquarium

Free Admission . Validated Parking*
22 Vendors . Potting Demonstrations
Orchid Display . Orchid Supplies

For More Information Contact Ida Hale 831-646-8724
www.carmelorchidsociety.org

*2 Hour Validated Parking in the
American Tin Cannery Parking Lot
with Plant Purchase

