

The BackBulb

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

March 2009



March Meeting: Paul & Mary Storm

The Wonderful World of Schomburgkias and Myrmecophilas

Paul was born and raised in Buffalo, NY, and Mary was born in Yonkers, NY, where neither of them ever saw an orchid. Later they lived and taught in Miami, Florida where

they met and wed, but again they never saw an orchid even though they lived near some of Miami's most famous orchid

The Storm's program will start at 7, be there early! The meeting is: Monday March 2nd. At the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, 501 El Dorado St. Monterey, CA.



nurseries. However, when they moved to Sarasota, Florida Paul attended an orchid sale for no known reason and purchased a division of *Schomburgkia tibicinis* and their world changed forever. Against the derision and advice of friends and family, Schoms and their hybrids became an obsession to the Storms and they realized that they were born to convert the world to "Schombo-love"! In addition they own the largest and most diverse collection of this group and their hybrids in the world. Together Paul and Mary (as Meke Aloha Orchids) have traveled extensively seeking the finest

examples of Schom species and hybrids and eventually they started to make their own hybrids. Their love of people and orchids (and their mission of 'Schomboconversion') have brought them invitations to many societies around the country and introductions to many new life-long friends. Paul's 'Schom-hero', Dr. Carl Withner, donated his personal Schom collection to the Storms, and some outstanding nurseries and hybridizers have named Schom hybrids after Paul in honor of their Schom mission. Although their mission has taken them

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P.O. Box 2454
Monterey, CA 93942

March Meeting, continued

to societies throughout Florida, Arizona, southern California, Texas, Hawaii, Washington, DC, and the Bahamas, the recent changes in Schomburgkia/ Myrmecophila taxonomy have necessitated a major revision of their program which has been aided by the Sr. registrar at RHS as well as Dr. German Carnevali in Mexico City.

Goodies For the March Meeting

Evelyne Anzini, John Poulos, Janette Ford, and Mimi Schramm. Will provide the goodies for your culinary pleasure (and raffle tickets!).

Upcoming Events

March

3/1 Monday 7PM COS March Meeting Paul and Mary Storm will work on the 'Schomboconversion' of the COS (hint: think Schomburgkia and Myrmecophila).

3/5-8: San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exhibition
Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco.

3/16 COS Board Meeting at Carolyn Salmon's

3/20-22 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Earl Warren
Showgrounds Exhibit Building Highway 101 and Las Positas
Road.

April

4/6 Monday 7PM COS April Meeting

4/25 Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Greenhouse Tour. Six
greenhouses, plants for sale.

May

5/4 Monday 7PM COS May Meeting.

5/17 May Faire!

President's Message

As you know for some time we have been looking for an alternative meeting place. The Board feels that this is necessary because of the rising rent at the Presbyterian Church and the Society's decreased income. As you know last year we chose not use the kitchen which saved us \$35 per month. Last month we were notified by the Church that our rent was raised from \$40 to \$65 per month, of course, without the use of the kitchen. Shirley West spoke to people at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula and they have agreed to rent us their meeting room for \$40.00 per month. The rent includes use of their kitchen, the coffee pot, a meeting room larger than we currently have, tables and chairs. I realize it is a little further to drive for some, not so far for others. It is about 1 mile from Highway 1 on Carmel Valley Road, right next to where we had our Christmas Party this past December. Please come to the March meeting, as we will vote on changing our meeting place and we would like to have as much participation from the membership as possible.

Carolyn Salmon has a note in this issue of the BackBulb with the latest news of our MayFaire. It is going to be a fun event and the Carmel Valley Garden Club and Hidden Valley Music Seminars have welcomed us with open arms. Since they are our partners we would like to help them with their Gala Evening on May 16th by asking our members to bring a bottle of wine to the May meeting which we will donate to the Gala.

Amanda is going to run our Raffle for us this year and she will be looking for donations. Perhaps you might know a business owner that would donate a gift certificate or you might have something you would like to donate. We are trying to keep expenses to a minimum and therefore don't want to rent tables and chairs for our booths. If you have a portable table, we would love to borrow it for the MayFaire.

Carol



Scenes from the February orchid flea market.

It's 2009, Don't Let Your Membership Wilt

We need your dues by May 1 So you can enjoy all our **great** speakers, **fabulous** orchid opportunity tables, and this **elegant** newsletter!

CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

2009 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Jaclyn Kinney 1381 Boles Ct. Seaside, CA 93955

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Type	Receive Newsletter
Member of the American Orchid Society <input type="checkbox"/>		Single	Via E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Via US Mail <input type="checkbox"/>
		Couple	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
		Vendor	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 <input type="checkbox"/>



Here's lookin' at you, Kid!

Are you a new member? Was your picture missing from the last Roster? If so, here's a chance to have your smiling face in the 2009 Roster. Shirley West and Jackie Kinney will be taking pictures of members for the Roster at the March and April meetings, as well as at the MayFaire. This is a great way for members to put faces with names. It's especially helpful to new members!

A new electronic Roster is on the way!

The board has decided to provide members with an electronic version of the Roster this year. We believe this will not only save our society money, but it will save trees and time! It will come to your email inbox just like the BackBulb does...in PDF format. Don't worry - if it gets lost or deleted, I can always email you another one. For those of you who receive the BackBulb in the mail, you will receive a printed Roster with member names and phone numbers. The new 2009 Roster will be coming out in June for everyone who has paid their dues.

Jackie Kinney (Membership Coordinator)

Stepping Up For MayFaire

Joanie Linares, Mimi Schramm, and I attended our first flower show meeting with our new partners February 3rd. Our partners include: Carmel Valley Garden Assn, Hidden Valley Music, some Artists and an elementary school teacher who participates in creating the children's garden. They gave us a very warm welcome. They are a very friendly, vivacious group whose interests run from gardening, music, the arts and education.

The COS board has formulated these committees to organize our volunteer effort.

- ◆ Orchid Display/Judging: Assist Marilyn Uribe and Elizabeth Coelho to design and set up an imaginative orchid display. Setup will be Friday May 15th.
- ◆ Orchid Acquisition and Sales: Help Carol Easton, Carolyn Salmon and Mimi Schramm to purchase orchids for resale from some local wholesalers. The plants will need to be picked up, cleaned, stored, set up and sold. Setup is early Sunday morning, May 17th.
- ◆ Potting Demonstrations: Assist Derek Wenzler to gather plants and materials to repot some orchids on Sunday.
- ◆ Set up and tear down: Help John O'Connell and John Poulos deliver EZ ups, a few tables and chairs for our booths. Assist our show partners and vendors as necessary.
- ◆ Membership: Assist Jackie Kinney to update current membership packets. May create new brochure and business cards to distribute to the public. May give input into show program distributed to attendees. Gather volunteers to man the membership table on Sunday.
- ◆ Publicity: Coordinate with Carol Easton, and Sharon Ashton and with our partners on show publicity going forward to include banners, signs ,news ads etc. Much of the early notices are completed to date.
- ◆ Raffle: Assist Amanda to gather donations from members and businesses. Purchase ticket rolls, set up raffle display booth, gather volunteers to help sell raffle tickets at the show, follow up with winners as necessary.
- ◆ Plant Motel: Assist Joanie Linares and Elizabeth Coelho to gather boxes to use and purchase ticket stubs. Coordinate with show partners and volunteers to man the motel during the show.

This is our basic outline and will be updated as we proceed. Our society currently has about 70 members. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! If all of us do just a little bit, there won't be overwhelming work for any one person. Beginning with our March meeting, there will be sign up sheets. This is our major fund raiser for the year. These funds bring us our speakers, raffle table and Christmas party. So please help. I look forward to working with all of you and look forward to a really fun Mayfaire. The venue is beautiful with lots of room.

Carolyn Salmon, Mayfaire Coordinator

Participate & Earn Free Raffle Tickets

Your COS Board wants to reward members with free plant raffle tickets for participating in society activities.

1. Participate in Show Tell & Sell. It is not necessary for your plants to be blue ribbon specimens. You may have a plant that is not thriving and would like feedback from members. We are in this society to admire and expand our knowledge of orchids. Every plant brought to the meeting helps us to achieve that goal.
2. Sign up to bring "goodies" or water. Pick up your ticket when you arrive at the meeting with your refreshment.
3. Email a picture of an orchid with a brief description to John O'Connell johnoconnell19@att.net and if they post it in the back bulb, you earn your ticket.
4. Bring a guest to a meeting and you and your guest earn a free raffle ticket. If that guest signs up as a member that night, you receive another 4 tickets for a total of 5 raffle tickets.
5. COS members all share a love of orchids but it would be nice to learn more about our members. Email a brief bio on yourself with some pictures to John O'Connell johnoconnell19@att.net and earn a free raffle ticket.



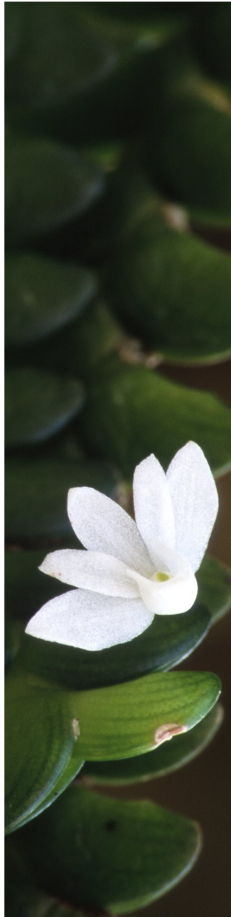
From Last Years Pacific Orchid Exposition

Advertise in the BackBulb

If you have a business, or just want to advertise your yard sale, this may be the place. The COS is now accepting advertising in the BackBulb. Circulation is mainly to our members and visitors, around 100 copies per month. The rates are: \$5 quarter page, \$10 half page, and \$20 for a full page. If you are interested contact the BackBulb editor, John OConnell johnoconnell19@att.net.

Orchid Talk

The days are slowly lengthening now and we can see the first hints of spring in our bulbs and roses. Winter rest is over for those orchids mentioned last month. Observe your plants closely for signs of active growth to increase water and fertilizer. The winter blooming cattleyas are finishing up now. This will be a good time to repot them as necessary just when the new roots begin to show. They are extremely fragile so don't let them get very long and they will easily grow into the new mix. For most cattleya, medium bark with a little perlite is all you need. The aphids and mealy bugs love to attack these new buds and shoots now, so get out that Rose & Garden Bayer spray many of us are using now. Our cymbidiums are in full flower now. Protect the flowers from the rain as much as possible to avoid flower blight. You can cut your stem and take it inside to enjoy too. Put a copper penny and a little sugar in the water and they can last a couple weeks. Adjust your stakes and bait for snails or use the cotton ball below the first flower to deter them. For the cymms, it will be time come April to switch to a high nitrogen fertilizer to begin maturing the new growths. Additional shading should go up now. All it takes is a couple warm days to cause sunburn on plants that have gotten used to shadier conditions over the winter. The leaves may get black areas with severe



burn or get too yellow or take on purple highlights in an effort to reflect the light. In another month, there are lots of orchids you can put outside till next fall. I do a lot of repotting in the spring in preparation for going outdoors, and before the warmer weather sets in.

Derek Wenzler warns us not to foliar feed our orchids with fish emulsion.

Why? Because it is organic, it actually initiates the decomposition process. I have enough of that going on without any extra help!

I have another book review for you. For the complete article you can refer to the latest Orchid Digest Magazine. The book is [Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa An Essential Guide](#). If you check Amazon, you will find one for over 500.00. The good news is Henry Oakeley privately published this book and it is available from www.henryoakeleybooks.com. The book is 12x12 inches square and 400 pages. There are photographs on virtually every page. Because of the strength of the US dollar to the British pound., the book is now \$100.00 including the shipping from

England. A truly amazingly comprehensive study of these orchids. My Lycastes are still thriving outside since last spring. They look so much better than they did in the greenhouse are some are in bud now. In another month or so, you will be able to take other orchids outside for the season.

Carolyn Salmon