

The BackBulb

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

April 2021



April Program: Fred Clarke

Today's Mini and Compact Cattleya's - A detailed look at the species and latest developments in the breeding and growing of these colorful flowers.

Today Mini and Compact growing Cattleya's come in many colors and shapes. Learn about the small growing Cattleya species, the important breeding plants and what hybrids are available for the orchid enthusiast. In conclusion we cover the 'best growing practices' for cultivations these little gems.

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out! His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara



After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine

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Upcomming Events

Not really a compact Cattleya, but in the Cattleya alliance, *Leptotes bicolor* in Carolyn's greenhouse. All the rest of the photos are also from Carolyn.

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FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



Fred gives a 20% discount at <https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/> for societies where he is a speaker so check it out and order some plants, because it may be a while until the next show. The discount code is "zoom"

Cattleya Winter Orange (of course)

A Light at the End of the Tunnel?

It is way to early to declare the COVID-19 pandemic over, but there may be a little light at the end of the tunnel. Many members are getting vaccinated and Monterey's infection rate is the lowest since last June so maybe it's time to start thinking about in person meetings. We are currently thinking about having our May meeting at Irene Patton's house. Of course masks will be worn and we will be outside, we are not going to go completely crazy. We will let you know the date and time closer to the event, it's probably not wise to make concrete plans to far in advance given the current trends.

Spring is an unstoppable force of nature and it is finally feeling like spring is here after our cool dry winter. Despite the drought I was able to fill my rain barrels (a bit over 640 gallons) maybe if we get a little rain in April and if the rains start in October I may not need to break out the RO filter this year, not likely though. With the coming of Spring there is new growth all around my greenhouse, and with new growth comes the need to repot. I started this annual chore in March and it will probably continue a couple of plants at a time through June. And with the repotting come divisions that will need to be sold or homes found for. The big task that I face this year is to divide my Cymbidium Alcor, which is growing out of it's 5 gallon pot, it will be a big job

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dividing it and a big job finding homes for the divisions since it isn't terribly cold tolerant. One parent can take 30's the other only 50's, I keep it in my greenhouse. Maybe the coming of spring and the relaxing of the COVID-19 restrictions has us all in a meet in person mood, but attendance at the Friday afternoon happy hours has been getting a bit sparse lately. Maybe it's time to discontinue this, or meet in person or meet less frequently, I am open to suggestions, please email me if you want to see any non meeting get togethers like the Friday Afternoon Orchid Happy Hours.

So I hope to see you all in May and good luck with your repotting.

John

Upcoming Events

April

4/5 Monday 7PM, COS April meeting. Speaker Fred Clarke, Zoom Meeting, like will be in the email.

4/16 Friday 5PM Orchid Happy Hour on Zoom? (If there is any interest)

May

5/8 Saturday 3PM COS May Meeting at Irene's house, more details later.

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y	
2021 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	
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Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Single \$25 _____
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	Add an additional \$5 to receive the newsletter via USPS



More Cattlyas and a Cymbidium from Carolyn.

