

# The BackBulb

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

April 2020



## Stuck at Home with My Orchids

It doesn't seem like very long ago that I was at POE and my main worry was that we hadn't had significant rain in several weeks (I use collected rain water to water my orchid in the summer). How quickly that changed in early March when just one day before it's opening, the Santa Barbara Orchid show, and every other big gathering in the state, was canceled, by the middle of the next week I was working from home and "social distancing" and "shelter in place" had become everyday terms and not little known terms out of training exercises. The COS board met Monday the 16th just before Monterey county issued it's own shelter in place order, and formally canceled the April and maybe the May meetings.

The almost nation wide lock down is having a disastrous effect on many businesses, but I have been thinking about the many orchid vendors who may have bought plants for show season and now have no shows to sell them at. So I did my part by ordering a few plants from Andy's Orchids, to perhaps take the place of the plants I would have bought at Santa Barbara. If you have a favorite vendor now is a good time to order a few plants from them. All of the orchid vendors that come to local shows are small businesses and really need your business right now.

Another person with a bunch of plants and now way to get rid of them is Carolyn. She bought Carol's collection in early March and was able to sell some of the plants before the lock down put a stop to having people over to pick out plants. Expect to see more of these plants for sale at some point in the future.



*Angraecum doratophyllum*, another Andy plant.

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If you would like to keep up with what others in the society and the orchid world in general are doing now that you are stuck at home and there are no shows or meetings, take a look at Instagram and Facebook, the society has a presence on both platforms, search for Carmel Orchid Society or look for the **#carmelorchidsociety** hashtag on Instagram, I have been trying to post something every day or two, and I invite you to post pictures of your blooming orchids using the **#carmelorchidsociety** hashtag.

All of the headlines and social distancing hasn't meant anything to my orchids, they are all growing and blooming in profusion. At the beginning of our mid winter dry spell I found that the ultrasonic humidifier (12 ultrasonic misting disks, about 2 years old) in the greenhouse had given up the ghost, bummer that thing cost \$200. So I started researching ways to humidify the greenhouse. A humidifier of some sort is necessary since when the temperature gets above 70 degrees the humidity in my greenhouse goes below 30%. I considered replacing the ultrasonic mister (\$200), swamp coolers (> \$500) and various misting systems (\$200-\$1000+), and finally decided on a misting system from MistKing, who mostly supplies misting systems to people and institutions who keep frogs, geckos, lizards etc. So \$200 later I had a pump, filter, 6 misting nozzles, tubing and a variety of other small parts. A few days later I had a working misting system. It works well too, in less than 30

seconds it can raise the humidity from 40% to just over 50%, doesn't get everything soaking wet either. Time will tell if it uses more water or less than the old system.

Hopefully the shelter in place directives will lift before summer. It's only been two weeks and I am missing social interaction, and I usually consider myself an introvert, I can only imagine the suffering of the extroverts out there. Well at least I have my plants to keep me busy.

**John**



*Meiracyllium trinasutum*, a cute little number that John bought at POE

## Spring Comes to Carol Eastons Orchid Collection

Orchid blooms are currently in abundance at my house. Most of you know that I purchased Carol Eastons wonderful orchid collection. She had many favorites to include both species and hybrids growing in her greenhouse and outdoors. The blooms range from cymbidium, dendrobium, the cattleya alliance, and even a couple in the



Catasetum alliance. She loved white, pink, purple and coerulea flowers the best. I know she disliked orange and green. I estimate there are around 400 plants here all wanting to be fed, watered, sprayed and some reported or re mounted. Spring has arrived in my own collection as well all wanting the same care. Many of the Cattleyas are fragrant so I live in a perfumed world that is very colorful. Many photos are

being posted on our Carmel Orchid Society Page on Facebook, Instagram at orchids.monterey or hashtag #carmelorchidsociety once I figure out all this photo sharing business. My desire is to share these orchids with our members and orchid lovers when we no longer have to socially distance ourselves. Flowers have always lifted my spirits and I wish the same for all of you.

**Carolyn Salmon**

831-917-3386



From Carol's Collection

Left: a very nice Dendrobium

Above: ***Chysis bractescens***

A *Dendrobium lindleyi* (*aggregatum*) in Zeb's, very cool, indoor enclosed growing area.



## April

4/4-5 **Canceled** - Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show and Sale. Cabrillo Horticulture Center. Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4

4/6 **Canceled** - Monday 7PM COS April Meeting

4/15-18 **Canceled** - Spring AOS Members meeting, Sacramento

## May

5/4 ? (probably not) COS May meeting

## C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2020 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the **Carmel Orchid Society** and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership c/o Carol Easton, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

Please print

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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If you were referred by a current member, please provide  
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Renewal  New Member

Member of the American Orchid Society

Membership Type	Receive Newsletter	
	Via E-Mail	Via US Mail
Single	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
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