

# The BackBulb

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

March 2023



## March Program: Disas, Flowers of the Rainbow

### A Webinar given by Michael Tibbs

There are 182 known species of *Disa* orchids, but the fame of the genus rests on *Disa uniflora* with its large red spectacular flowers. *Disas* are terrestrial orchids that grow primarily in tropical and south Africa with a few species in Madagascar, and even the Arabian peninsula. They have traditionally been known as an orchid that is difficult to grow however in this Webinar we will see that with a few simple, cultural adaptations they are not so difficult. *Disas* comprise a large cut flower industry in Belgium, where the cut flowers are



*Disa uniflora* by Magdapienaar

shipped around the world, blooms last for weeks and come in beautiful jewel like colors ranging from white yellow oranges, reds, and even some pinks. In the USA these wonderful orchids can be purchased from High Desert Orchids. Note that HDO is going to be at POE, but they are closing, and may have a limited plant availability. *Disas* can also be obtained from California Carnivores.

Michael started growing plants at an early age in South Africa. He is currently an orchid judge

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In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter A thru F to bring refreshments to the meeting.

## **COS Officers**

### **President**

Amanda Nixon

### **VP Program**

John OConnell  
Kathie Ritter  
Carolyn Salmon

### **Recording Secretary**

Irene Patton

### **Treasurer**

Janette Ford

### **Directors**

Cathie Walmsley  
Anna Narvaez-Helms

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Carmel, CA  
93922-3462

## **BackBulb Editor & Webmaster**

John OConnell

## **Membership**

Amanda Nixon

is several countries and works as a consultant on New Product Development and Technical Research for a UK based horticultural company specializing in the supply of fresh cut flowers, he also consults on and breeds orchids; Cymbidiums, Zygopetalums, Ansellias, Disas and intergeneric Oncidiums for the commercial pot-plant trade.

## Upcoming Events

### March

#### **3/6 Monday COS March Meeting**

3/10-12 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara

### April

#### **4/3 Monday COS April Meeting**

**Note:** Meetings are held at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

## Bud Blasting

I have gotten a lot of inquiries about what causes buds to "blast" lately, both by email and online. There are a number of potential causes:

- \* Mites.
- \* Thrips.
- \* Insufficient humidity.
- \* Insufficient watering.
- \* A blast of hot air from a forced-air heater.
- \* Drying due to high light intensity.
- \* A sudden chill.
- \* Pesticide application, especially if it is oil-based.
- \* Ethylene gas, either from a dirty gas burner or ripening fruit in the vicinity of the plant. This is sometimes true of scented candles, as well.

Unfortunately, once a bud starts to fail, there is nothing that can be done to reverse it, so my only advice is "do what you can to prevent it from happening".

Mites and insects should be well-controlled, not by preventive treatments, but by "nipping the infestation in the bud" when it first becomes apparent. No half-baked topical treatments; get out the appropriate pesticide and do a thorough series of treatments to knock them out altogether.

The others rely entirely on you paying attention and managing the environment to give the plants what they want.

I also field a number of "what can the

plants tolerate?" questions, but if you want your plants to grow and bloom the best, you need to expend the effort to give each plant as close to a "perfect" environment as possible, rather than hoping they'll tolerate what you have.

If you cannot modify the environment, the smart thing is to only grow plants that prefer what you can easily provide.

Until next time... Good Growing!

**Ray** at <https://firstrays.com/> (a great source of free info as well as specialty orchid supplies)

## POE 2023

A van load of COS members went up to POE (Pacific Orchid Exhibition) on Saturday, between the Friday and Sundays storms, and several hours later we left with a bunch of new plants. In between we perused the twenty odd vendors and admired the dozen or so exhibits.



**Paphiopedilum** Leonard's Pride 'Petrus' FCC/AOS SM/CSA which earned a CCE at the show, at the Paph Paradise exhibit.

## Observations:

- \* The number of exhibits was down from last year and 2020. And many of the exhibits that were there featured Cymbidiums or Phaps.
- \* Cymbidiums and Phals were real popular in the vendor area. Aroids dominated the non-orchids with even Ecuagenera, which in years past was dominated by small species plants, dominated by leafy Aroids. Hoyas were fairly common among the

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smaller orchid vendors, while Tillandsias seem to be falling out of favor. I also saw no carnivorous plants.

- \* The price of all the plants has gone up. I brought home seven plants, the largest in a three inch pot and the cheapest was \$20.
- \* I only saw about half a dozen AOS awards. One CCE, and several AMs and HCCs.
- \* If you wanted a particular uncommon plant, like Carolyn and her quest for Disas, you probably should have gone to the preview night on Thursday.



Above:  
***Cymbidium***  
Eastern Morning  
'Shunshuku' AM/  
AOS ***Cymbidium***  
***goeringii x***  
***Cymbidium***  
***lowianum***

Below: One of the  
many Draculas in  
the Bay Area  
Pleurothalid  
Alliance  
Wardarian case

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Above: The colorful SVO, Sunset Valley Orchid, exhibit

Below: A spectacular *Dendrobium speciosum* in the Cal-Orchid exhibit



## Minutes For The Board Of Directors Of Cos, February 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Amanda Nixon, president, via Zoom. Attending were: John O'Connell, Carolyn Salmon, Janette Ford, Anna Navarez-Helms, Irene Patton and Cathy Walmsley.

The minutes from January 7th were corrected and corrections made to the members list.

The treasurer reported that she filed taxes today (Feb. 13). The ongoing 501C-3 (5) discussion was that now we must file the long form and pay \$600 to re-apply for the correct status. We are a 501C-5 and desire to be a 501C-3 so that we can accept donations. John suggested we contact the AOS affiliate society coordinator to see if we can fit under their umbrella as a member of the AOS. He does not believe that we

can do that and will have to apply for new status.

After much discussion, the board decided to contact the AOS for help but that we would pay the \$600 and file for new status if they were unable to assist us ( unanimous vote). Members offered to help Janette fill out the long form.

The treasurer reported expenses for AOS membership, web domain renewal and plant table orchids from John's sister.

Sales from the Scott Collins estate plants for February totaled \$225 and the raffle brought in \$138.

We agreed on a \$420/year cap for the tech services person helping with our website and advertising, and other things that Amanda's associate is helping us with now. Amanda asked for members of the Board to suggest improvements to the website for the organization.

The Board praised John for his power point presentation at the February meeting on 'Variety is the Spice of Life'. There were 14 members present at the meeting at the church with one new member joining. \$275 was collected in member dues. The closing balance for February is \$11,206.91.

Andy Tao has offered to take over the membership list, putting it on a spread sheet. John expressed concern that it would not be compatible with his needs for the newsletter. Amanda said she



Cymbidium grown by Jeanette Brown, photo by Irene Patton

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would continue to do the membership list until John and Andy could get together and work that out. She said she is often behind in posting new members.

John asked for information to be sent to him to use in the newsletter.

Amanda suggested a trip to So Cal for members interested in seeing orchid venues.

Carolyn says a 50lb bag of Romeo fertilizer could be available to members at a good price. It was mentioned that

Fred Clarke has an on line supply business.

Much discussion was given to meeting time and place. John wants to do an outside demo on repotting before mid-April and will ask Kathie Ritter if March 25th would work at her house.

The March 6th meeting is a webinar on Zygopetalums at the church.

The next meeting of the Board will be held March 18th at 4 pm by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Irene Patton, secretary

## C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2023 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** \_\_\_\_\_

Add an additional **\$10** to receive  
the newsletter via USPS

**75<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SANTA BARBARA  
INTERNATIONAL  
ORCHID SHOW**

**ORCHIDS -  
THE  
ADVENTURE  
RETURNS**

**MARCH 10-12, 2023  
9AM - 5PM**

**EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA**

**GENERAL ADMISSION - \$20 | 3-DAY PASS - \$30  
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER WITH PAID ADULT - FREE**

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