

The BackBulb

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

April 2023



April Program: Repotting Demonstration

John OConnell and Carolyn Salmon

Repotting is a rite of passage to the novice, a dreaded chore to the owners of large collections, or a chance to try out something new if you feel a little adventurous. Novices generally approach repotting with much trepidation, fearing that any mistake will lead to the death of their beloved orchid. Old hands rip plants out of pots, cut them into pieces and pot up everything in their favorite pot and mix and move on to the next. Experience has taught us that orchids are a lot tougher than we once thought. But unfortunately not tough enough to protect them from an poor potting choice or unfortunate timing. The 80/20 rule applies here. 80 percent of the plants will grow just fine in almost anything you put them in, the other 20 percent will resent either your timing or your choice of pots, mix or mount and either die quickly, if you are lucky, or mangle for

months or years until the last green leaf finally drops and you concede defeat, add the tag to your "killed" file and the corpse to your compost pile, where it will resist decay and remind you



- 1 April program
- 2 Upcomming Events
- 3 Santa Barbara Show

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

COS Officers

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Amanda Nixon

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Kathie Ritter
Carolyn Salmon

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John OConnell

Membership

Amanda Nixon

of your failure until buried beneath months of kitchen scraps. It is ironic that orchid roots seem to easily rot in 3 year old bark, but will resist decay for many months in a compost pile that makes short work of yesterdays salad scraps.



Repotting and the choices that go with it is also a rich source of disagreement between orchid people. Everyone has their own favorites and reasons for them and they are usually quite willing to tell anyone who will listen why they like product xyz or even expound on their philosophy of potting, repotting, dividing, or mounting usually until their victims eyes have glazed over. Hopefully we can avoid glazed eyes in our presentation about repotting. It's not hard, it can be a bit tedious (try getting all of the old sphagnum out of a large Pleurothaliid root ball!), but your plants will love you if you take care.

I love this plant, pot combination. From the SBIOS.
Photo by Cammie Jones

Upcoming Events

April

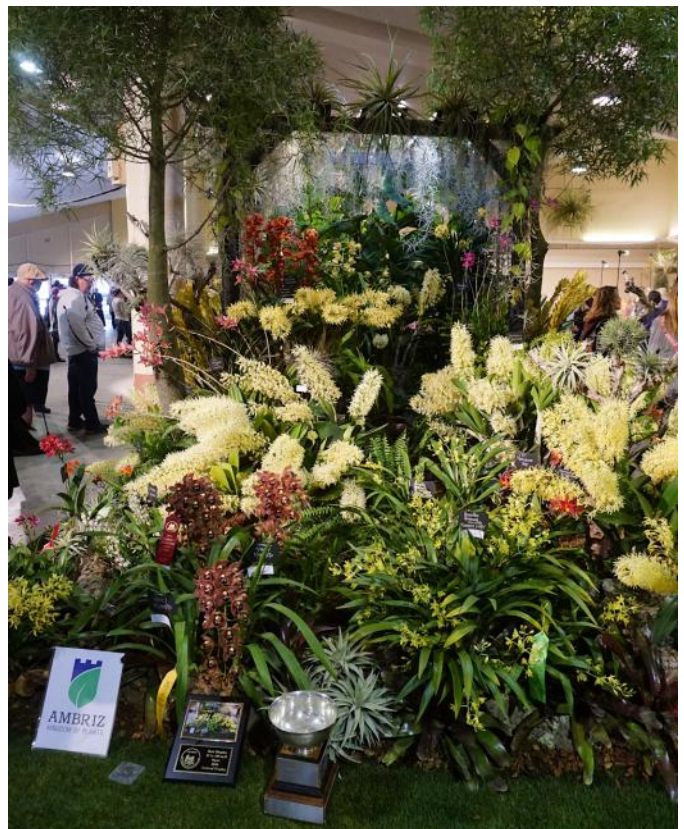
4/3 Monday 7PM COS April Meeting at the Community Church of Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.

May

5/1 Monday 7PM COS May Meeting at the community room of the Pebble Beach Community Services District building next to the Fire Station. 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. Getting there can be a bit complicated if you don't know Pebble Beach, you also need to get past the gate, just tell them you are going to the Carmel Orchid Society meeting at the Pebble Beach Community Services Building, they should not charge you. Turn by turn directions next month.

2023 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

I go to the Santa Barbara show for the exhibits and two local nurseries, SBOE and Cal-Orchid. After being underwhelmed by the exhibits at POE, I was ready to see some good displays. SBIOS did not disappoint, though like POE there was a fair bit of empty space in the exhibit hall that I don't recall being there before, and a few displays were not up to par (there is always a few). There were several large displays complete with props that complemented the theme, "Orchids – The Adventure Returns", there was also an abundance of specimen sized plants and smaller unusual species. In addition, SBIOS has an orchid themed art exhibit and Ikebana display which offer a different take on orchids.



Classic Santa Barbara exhibits featuring big Dendrobium Speciosums and Laelias

Like the exhibit hall the vendor hall had a noticeable empty space which was just big enough for Andy's Orchids normal large display. I am very disappointed that Andy has forsaken Central California, they attend shows on the east coast but not here. There may be good reasons, but it still hurts that my favorite vendor has abandon two shows where they never seemed to lack for customers. I guess I will need to find someone else to buy those weird and unusual orchids from. Another disappointment was SBOE (Santa Barbara Orchid Estate), their exhibit was much

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More classic displays, big and expressing the theme "Orchids – The Adventure Returns"

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smaller than usual, it contained a half dozen or so plants, they were very nice large plants, but... At the nursery many of the isles were closed off limiting you to just plants prepared for sale. The closed off areas looked disheveled, plants turned over, shade cloth drooping low. I hope it is just because of the recent storms and not evidence of creeping neglect. At least Paul was his usual spry talkative self (he is 90!), he was continuously engaged with customers while I was there.

Across the street, Cal-Orchid was business as usual, they have always had the well organized greenhouse with lots of seedlings and slightly large plants compared to the sprawling slightly disorganized, specimen heavy SBOE. I hope both these nurseries continue for at least a few more years, Santa Barbara would not be the same without them.



Above: Orchid Ikebana photo by Cammie Jones



Left: Orchid art photo by Cammie Jones

Below: Masadevalia look like art!



Letter from the President March 20, 2023

Dear members and former members,
Thank you to all the members who have renewed their 2023 memberships already. As you know, we have many expenses that must be met, such as liability insurance, rental of meeting and show facilities, speakers, AOS Membership, PO rental, bank and credit card processing fees, plant table for the raffle (which we always lose money on), CPAs and legal advice, advertising, office supplies, show supplies, copying, website host fee and assistance with our media representation among others. Please consider renewing if you have not already. If you are a visitor who has visited a few times, we would be very happy to welcome you as a supportive member. Our treasurer, Janette, will be available to renew memberships or take new ones at the April meeting.

Our April meeting will be Monday April 3rd, 7pm at the usual church location, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel. John and Carolyn will be giving a live presentation on repotting and mounting a variety of orchids. This will be an interesting demonstration for orchid lovers at all levels of experience. Invite your friends. Plant table opportunities will be available. We will turn the heat up this time as our last meeting was quite cool. We also will have better sound going forwards.

Janette has worked a lot of hours putting in an application with the IRS to change the status of our non-profit organization so we may accept

donations, cash or "in kind"- such as the lovely donation of plants we received from Scott's family. We are waiting on reply at this time.

Please be aware that should you wish to continue receiving the Backbulb and other communication from the COS, you should share any email, telephone or address changes as soon as possible.

Our survey showed that the majority of members have confirmed they are willing to split the meetings between the church and Pebble Beach location. Our first visit to the Pebble Beach location will be May 1st. Our second this year will be in October. I will send more info on finding it as we get closer to the meeting. You will simply say at the gate you are going to the Carmel Orchid Society Meeting and you will be let in, no charge. We will temporarily put up our soft COS banner to help people find the entrance. The address is 3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach. The majority also wanted to keep meeting nights during the week, followed closely by afternoons on the weekend.

So far no one has indicated they did not want to have their contact info shared with other members. If you do wish to not have your info shared, please let us know immediately, as we will be distributing membership lists in the near future.

We will have an info pop up booth the last weekend in August at the West End Celebration. This is a great opportunity to invite people to our Fall Market November 10th and 11th at the church. Please mark that on your

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calendar as we will be looking for volunteers.

Kathie Ritter is researching and applying for us to have AOS formal judging of plants at the Fall Market this year. That is a very interesting aspect of orchid growing we have not been able to experience the last few years. I think a presentation of how orchids are judged and the award process would be good to learn about at a meeting.

Anna has proposed a hospitality program for new members. She is looking for volunteers. We want to be friendly to new members, guests and share our individual expertise gladly. Anna will be making up welcome packets for new members.

In addition, Anna's hospitality program will be implementing stick-on name tags again. She has also suggested we ask who has a birthday in a given month and those persons receive a free plant opportunity ticket. I suggested we also offer a free ticket to visitors.

The Board of Directors realizes we have all levels of expertise in growing orchids. We will do our best going forward to have a mix of advanced and beginner topics, hoping to support the interests of all members.

The Board of Directors welcomes your suggestions.

Best Regards,
Amanda Nixon

President, Carmel Orchid Society

Free to a Good Home! (if you pick them up)

A heavy blue plastic barrel with lid, over 30 gallons, good for storing orchid mix, soil or water.



The wire rack is two sided each measuring 24" wide by 8' tall, on wheels at bottom so it can be stable and moved. Good for mounted orchids, baskets, small planters, etc..

Please text Carolyn at 831-917-3386



Minutes For The Board Of Directors Of Cos, March 18, 2023

Amanda Nixon called the meeting to order at 4 pm. Attending via Zoom were: Amanda Nixon, John O'Connell, Carolyn Salmon, Irene Patton, Anna Narvaez-Helms, Cathy Walmsley, Kathie Ritter.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Back Bulb for February. The treasurer's report was given by Amanda and previously emailed to the Board by Janette, who was out of town. The checkbook balance is \$10, 780 which is about the same as the 2022 year end closing. The February raffle income was \$138 and the March raffle was \$60. Janette paid \$550 for the fee for our application as a 501c-3, a credit card fee of \$22.36 and rent of \$50. Still outstanding is the P.O. Box fee of \$166 and insurance for \$325. Members renewing and a new member paid dues.

April 3rd, the program at the church will be on repotting by John. May's meeting will be at Pebble Beach which has a generator in case of power failure.

Amanda suggested we meet early for an orientation for using Zoom for our speaker in PB. Amanda will cancel the church for May. Also she reported that Sam updated the website and asked us to note anything to be changed.

Amanda plans to advertise our April and May meetings in the paper. Irene will put it on the radio community calendar and in the Weekly community calendar on line.

Carolyn reported that Mitch Schneider, the VP of the SFOS is willing to be a speaker on Cattlyeas. She suggested we could share costs with SF for speakers at meetings. She will check with Derek to see if he will do his presentation on outdoor orchids for our area and/or Mary Garritson for the May Pebble Beach meeting. She reminded us that Huntington Gardens will donate orchids for our raffle or sales if we can arrange pick up.

We discussed how to make the meeting room at the church more comfortable. Irene suggested having someone in charge of the room set up (not the speaker) and maybe to arrange the chairs in a semi circle so that people would feel more included and could see each other. We had several people walk out of the webinar presentation in March, possibly because of the difficulty in understanding the speaker and because the topic was not on their level. The cold and dark of the room is discouraging also.

After some discussion Amanda agreed to moving ahead with finalizing a revised membership spreadsheet. She said she is working on simplifying information.

We discussed ways to make new members more welcome. Mentorship and a Hospitality Group were suggested. Anna suggested a welcome packet for new members and name tags at meetings. We thought recognizing birthdays with an extra raffle ticket would be nice. Anna will be in charge of hospitality with help from Cathy.

Irene mentioned our elder members

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who have not been able to attend meetings: Imo, Jeannette Brown, Norma Walsh and Pat Landee. We can call and offer rides and check in with them during the month.

Kathie is having judges present for our November Market and we are hoping to have some instruction before then on what AOS judging is like and how it benefits our group. We discussed how

important it is to have our society recognize the needs of the intermediate and advanced members.

Amanda said she would put together a map with the exact address for the PB location in May. She has applied to the West End Celebration for the last weekend in August.

Next board meeting is April 17th at 7.

Irene Patton, secretary



I wish I could grow these! Chinese Cymbidiums from Jack Zhu at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

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