

The BackBulb

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

June 2023



June Speaker: Mitch Schneider

Kaleidoscope of Colors, Breeding with Cattleya Horace 'Maxima'

If you are into large, frilly, colorful Cattleya hybrids, then Cattleya Horace 'Maxima' is your sort of orchid. Although it has only been awarded 4 times, the first being in 1949 and the latest being in 2008 with an 82 point AM/AOS. It has sired many offspring, 344 have been registered so far, giving some indication of it's value as a breeding parent. It is useful in producing offspring of many different colors, it imparts flower size, shape and temperature tolerance to it's offspring. Come find out about orchid breeding, what makes a good parent, using this great Cattleya as an example.

Dr. Mitch Schneider's interest in Orchid started young in his teenage years. Mitch started orchids after seeing the orchid mania display in his hometown at the Cleveland Botanical



Cattleya Horace 'Maxima'

Gardens. During his PhD studies Mitch worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. While at Los Alamos Mitch met Dr. Ron Midgett, who has been breeding orchids for over 55 years. Mitch learned the art of breeding orchids from Ron. When Ron started considering retirement, Mitch became a co-owner of New Earth Orchids, and relocated operations from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Half Moon Bay, CA. After accepting

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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 **S** thru **Z** to bring refreshments to the meeting.

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a position to join the electron sources team for the Stanford linear accelerator Center (SLAC).

Mitch's primary interest in breeding orchids is in the Cattleya alliance, Oncidium alliance, and Zygopetalum alliance. Mitchell as continued Ron's work of producing compacted novelty size Cattleya's who have plants no bigger than 18 inches tall with flowers that are 5 to 6 inches in natural spread. In a wide variety of color forms including large full segmented cerulean, green with a white lip, spots and stripes, and his favorite the art shade lines. Mitchell also has started breeding to reintroduce high quality warmth tolerant Odontoglossum with the assistance of Bob Hamilton. Mitch is also working with a consortium of breeders to pioneer inter-generic Zygopetalum with full spectrum colors.

Mitch is active in the American Orchid Society Pacific Central Judging Center, has been serving on the SFOS show committee, and is now the Vice President. Mitch strives to encourage younger orchid growers to become more involved and to help partner them with experienced members to share their love of orchids, and to learn from each other.



Oncidium harrisonia, in Carolyn's greenhouse

Upcoming Events

June

6/5 Monday 7PM COS June Birthday Celebration. At the usual place: The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

6/10 Saturday 2PM, Orchid Happy Hour at John's house.

Bill Hale



I wanted to share some sad news to our orchid society members. Bill Hale and his wife Ida were lifetime members of our orchid society dating back to the 1960s. Bill passed away peacefully a few days ago in his hometown of Hanford California. He was 85 years old. Bill and his wife Ida were members of our society dating back to its early beginnings. They served on the board as early as 1981 when I first met them. And they were an Integral part of the success of our society in those years that they served with us . We had our first Orchid show at the crossroads shopping center in 1981 largely due to their efforts. Bill had an extensive orchid collection utilizing two nursery sized greenhouses in Carmel Valley and a backyard greenhouse at their home in Del Ray Oaks. He loved Cattleya's and Paphiopedalums, phrags, odontoglossums and so many more

numbering in the multi thousands. He also had a large collection of Cymbidiums at his home in Del Ray Oaks. Bill was also an avid gardener with all kinds of flowers, cactus, fruit trees, the variety was endless. He had the greatest heart of anybody I've ever met, but most of all Bill was a good friend, sincere in every way, generous, to a fault, and a very good cook, who loved to share food with others. He was the man who taught me all about Orchids when I volunteered for several years at his greenhouses in Carmel Valley, where we were constantly repotting orchids. I learned so much from him that I try to share with others. For those of us who knew Bill, we will miss you dearly and know that you lived a good life, and you are with the angels now and with Ida.

Sincerely Carolyn Salmon

William's Obituary

William Gabriel Hale Sr., known to his friends as Pete, Bill, and Willie, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2023 at his home in Hanford, California. He was a loving father, grandfather, and friend, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

William was born on February 23, 1938 in Hanford, California to his parents Jack and Emily Hale. He graduated from Hanford Joint Union High school and later married the love of his life, Ida Martinez. Together for over 60 years, they had five children and shared a love of orchids and music.

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Throughout his life, William pursued a career as a chef at the Holiday Inn in Monterey, California for 50 years, where he was known as Pete to his colleagues. He also co-founded an orchid company, Bakkehelle Orchids, with his partners James Nybakken and his wife Ida. William was a well-known member of the Carmel Orchid Society for many years where he held various titles and was known to his friends as Bill. William was a passionate member of the Knights of Columbus in Seaside, California, and loved to share stories with anyone he met.

After his retirement, William and his wife Ida moved back to their hometown of Hanford, California, where they spent

their golden years surrounded by family and friends.

William is survived by his children William Hale Jr, Richard Hale, Joy Davila, Grant Hale, John Hale, all his grandchildren, and his many friends.

William is fondly remembered for his charming personality, thoughtfulness and caring nature towards others. He was highly regarded for his creativity and sense of humor that lit up any room. William was someone who was always trustworthy, honest, and generous in his spirit, and he will always be treasured by those who knew him.



According to Irene this is Amanda's "Chocolate Cymbidium" which won a blue ribbon at the Carmel Valley Garden Club Flower Show. No word on whether the chocolate is milk chocolate or bitter sweet.

Carolyn Salmon, Kathie Ritter and Irene Patton also received awards for their entries.

Super-Simple Feeding Regimen

Those of you that are familiar with me, whether in-person, via online forums or this newsletter, know how detailed and "nerdy" I can get about plant nutrition.

I have no doubt that some of you view that as "overkill", so I thought I'd put together a few bullet points that constitute a simple, yet effective methodology to follow when feeding your plants.

- Fertilizer formula, in general, is not critical.
- If you use a pure water source – rain, RO, distilled, etc. – you must supplement Mg and Ca. You can use an ordinary fertilizer and use supplement additives, but I find it easier to use a formula already containing them. In order of amount contained, K-Lite has the most, followed by MSU RO and Jack's Cal-Mag.
- There is no need to switch formulas if the one you're using is nutritionally complete.
- Nitrogen is, by far, the most important nutrient. I strongly urge growers to use nitrogen content as the feeding control factor – analogous to calorie counting for people.
- Since we have no idea of the mass uptake by the plant, we can use fertilizer concentration and frequency of application as a control mechanism.
- A good, general feeding regimen should supply between 75 and 125

ppm N per week. Don't let that scare you, it's easy to translate that to easy to use measurements:

- Divide 8 by the %N in the formula. The result is teaspoons per gallon to mix for the middle of that range, giving you room to round up or down for measuring convenience. Here are a few examples:

* K-Lite Orchid/Epiphyte Fertilizer contains 12.9% nitrogen.

$8/12.9=0.62$, so 1/2 - 2/3, or 3/4 teaspoon per gallon keeps you in the recommended range.

* MSU Fertilizer for Well Water contains 19.2% nitrogen.

$8/19.2=0.42$, so use 1/3 to 1/2 teaspoon per gallon.

* Miracle-Gro Orchid Food is a 30% N formula. $8/30=0.267$, so 1/4 teaspoon/gallon is appropriate.

- If you feed every two weeks (that's the longest interval I recommend), double the numerator in that simple math.

- If you decide to change fertilizer formula, use the same nitrogen concentration, but do not expect to see a change in your plants' growth and flowering. If that's your goal, maintain a steady course with your feeding and look instead at other aspects of your overall culture.

Until next time... Good Growing!

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

BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

Orchid Happy Hour

When: Saturday **June 10th 2pm**

Where: John's house, 1697 Luzern St. Seaside

Food: We are providing light snacks and some wine, feel free to bring snacks and a bottle of your favorite if you are so inclined.

Come enjoy a, hopefully, sunny afternoon in Seaside. See John's greenhouse, and hob-knob with other orchid people.



Hopefully the Encyclias here plus a couple of others will be blooming. Right: ***Encyclia incumbens***
Left: ***Encyclia livida***

CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY 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
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