

# The BackBulb

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

March 2024

The March Meeting is on **Saturday March 2nd, 2PM** at the Church



## March Speaker: Mitch Schneider

### Zygopetalum Intergenerics

In their never ending quest for something different and maybe better than nature provided, orchid breeders have been crossing closely related plants for quite a while now. Cattleyas, Phals, Paphs, Phrags, Dedrobiums, Cymbidiums... All the favorite groups have been extensively explored for their breeding potential, and even the not quite so popular Bubos, Pleuros, Lycasties... have a lot of hybrids. Breeders started crossing related genera to produce intergeneric hybrids as early as 1888 (Cattleya and Laelia), and they are still at it today. Intrepid breeders look for the unexplored territory of lesser known genera to create their new and unusual crosses, and so Mitch has been breeding with Zygopetalum and some of it's related genera to bring us some new and exciting orchids.

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 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.



Zygonisia Cynosure (Aganisia cyanea x Zygopetalum Skippy Ku)

1  
March Speaker

2  
Upcomming Events

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.

## **COS Officers**

### **President**

Amanda Nixon

### **VP Program**

John OConnell

Kathie Ritter

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Cathy Walmsley

Sonya Weininger

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 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.

P.O. Box 223462  
Carmel, CA  
93922-3462

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.

## **BackBulb Editor & Webmaster**

John OConnell

## **Membership**

Amanda Nixon

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March**

**3/2 Saturday 2PM COS March Meeting** at the Church

3/8-10 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

3/16 Saturday 9am to noon Annual Cutting Day Horticulture Fair.

3/22-24 Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Display and Sale Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave, San Jose

### **April**

**4/6 Saturday 2PM COS April Meeting at the Church**

4/6 MEarth Day Celebration 10-4, Hilton Bialek Habitat, next to Carmel Valley Middle School



**Left: *Cymbidium knaran*:** John bought this plant at the show in November against his better judgment, since he has killed many Chinese Cymbidiums. But so far, so good, the plant has bloomed and is producing new growths.

**Above: *Cattleya loddigesii* 'Caruna'** blooming in John's greenhouse

**Below:** An unknown Cymbidium hybrid grown by Chris Thomas, originally grown in the 1950s in Southern California, and Chris is still keeping it alive and flowering after all these years



## Bark, Bark, Bark

We have an opportunity to get Orchiata bark and possibly perlite from Mitch Schneider. If you are interested in ordering, please follow Mitch's instructions below. New Earth Orchids is located in Half Moon Bay.

We are again partnering with Mitch Schneider from New Earth orchids for his triannual Orchiata bark order. Orchiata is a premium bark that is ideal for growing all orchids from seedlings to specimen sized plants and come from premium New Zealand pine. It is one the cleanest orchid barks available. Additionally it does not break down rapidly. Under most circumstances it can extend your repotting time from once a year to once every 3 to 5 years. New Earth Orchids will be providing bark in all available sizes from small (classic), medium (power), large (power plus), and Super (extra-large). (Classic is 6-9 mm, power is 9-12mm and power plus is 12-18 mm.) Mitch will be taking

orders until March 15 for the first week of April delivery date to New Earth Orchids. After the delivery date you have up to one month to pick up the bark if not it will be offered to another customer. To save your bag of bark a 50% deposit must now be paid online before the bark is ordered using the following link. All bags are \$40 per bag therefore the deposit is \$20 per bag plus tax. Only orders submitted through the online link will be placed. Please note that how the link is design is that only one bag size can be picked at the time so therefore if you're doing multiple sizes, you place a separate order for each size. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

If a customer has a resale permit they can contact Mitch directly for other methods of payment Mitch can be contacted via email at [mitchell.e.schneider@gmail.com](mailto:mitchell.e.schneider@gmail.com).

Bark order link: <https://square.link/u/BCCCKUvF>



***Encyclia patens*** in John's greenhouse. John has had this plant for almost 15 years, it was in a 2" pot in the beginning and it now is in an 8" pot and produces 6-7 spikes when it blooms in the winter.

# BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

## Annual Cutting Day Horticulture Fair.

**March 16, 9am to Noon**

Hosted by the city of Monterey Parks Division with assistance from the Monterey Kiwanis club and the Boy Scouts of America. Held at the Friendly Plaza (in front of Colton Hall) at the corner of Pacific St. & Jefferson St in Monterey. Saturday March 16th from 9

to 12 rain or shine! This is a community plant exchange, to include cuttings, seedlings, potted plants of all sizes, **given away free of charge.** The city of Monterey, as well as a few nurseries provide a wide range of plants. The parks department is giving us a table there for community out reach. Amanda, Kathie & Carolyn will be posted at the table for this event. Anyone available is more then welcome to assist.

## MEarth Day Celabration

**April 6 10am to 4pm**

We have been accepted to the MEarth Day celebration. It is BIG, not as big as West End but very eco orientated. They were won over when I said we supported orchid conservation! We can't sell but we can demo and show and have handouts. It is a lot of fun and a super location, right next door to the Community Church (Hilton Bialek Habitat, next to Carmel Valley Middle School). This will be a good way to get kids interested.

I will need volunteers for set up and a 3 hour booth sit and for another 3 hour shift with break down. Set up should take 15 minutes? There is lots of parking, food, native plants for sale. We must bone up on orchid conservation world wide. Workers should bring chairs with them.



On of the Lealias from Ken Jacobsen's plant table last October. Grown by Carolyn.

# BackBulb CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY

## Membership Time!

It's that time again, time for your otherwise nice, friendly society board members to nag you about paying your membership dues. As much as we would like to have your money to pay for our fabulous monthly speakers, what we really want is for you to come hear the speakers, buy the raffle tickets and take home all the interesting plants on our monthly raffle tables. None of that will happen if you are not interested enough to pay the pittance we ask for our yearly dues. Most orchids that we will kill in less than a year cost more than a years membership! So all we ask is that you pay your dues, come to the meetings and have a wonderful time!



*Dendrobium kingianum* in John's greenhouse

## CARMEL ORCHID SOCIETY 2024 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

# SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

76th

**2024**  
**MARCH 8-10**  
**9 AM - 5 PM**

## ORCHIDS

FLORAL GEMS  
OF NATURE



**EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS**  
**HWY 101 & LAS POSITAS**  
**SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA**

**\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION**  
**\$30 3-DAY PASS**  
**(CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH ADULT)**

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**@ORCHIDSHOW**  
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