

# The BackBulb

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

June 2024



## June Speaker: John OConnell

### Sex, Deceit, and Abandonment, the Secret Lives of Orchids Reveled!

If orchids had a reality TV show it would be more like Real Housewives of \_\_\_\_\_ than Wild Kingdom. Love em, leave em, abandon the children, yep, this is fodder for reality TV for sure. Everyone knows that orchids are flamboyant, and you may have heard about their wild sex lives, but what drives these crazy, flashy flowers to such extraordinary lengths?

John should have known that the botany degree would come back to haunt him. VP's or orchid societies are always looking for speakers with new topics who will ~~perform~~ speak for free, so he should have been more careful about regaling the COS VP with tales of wild orchid sex (pollination in polite society). A bit of flattery, and begging, and presto! The June program is taken care of for an unbeatable price too.

John's orchid habit started innocently enough when he was given an orchid as a house warming present. It would be ten years before that



A *Ophrys apifera* hopping to get a little "bee sex" on the side and get pollinated

first orchid bloomed again. Along the way that first Cattleya was joined by a Phalaenopsis then, upon discovering the Atlanta Orchid Show, a little Lycaste. he didn't realize it at the time, but the Lycaste was the beginning of his fascination, some would say obsession, with orchids. Now many years and several hundred orchids later, orchids continue to fascinate him.

**Note:** There will be an orchid repotting demo just before the meeting, starting at 6:30pm.

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

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Happenings at the  
May Meeting

**COS Officers**

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**BackBulb Editor**

John OConnell

**Membership**

Amanda Nixon

**Greenhouse Visit/SCOS Meet and Greet**

On **Saturday June 8th** the Santa Cruz Orchid Society is coming down to visit three of our members greenhouses. If you would like to see these greenhouses and meet some of the orchid people from across the bay come by at the following times:

- \* Carolyn Salmon 10-11am 1520 David Ave. Monterey
- \* Irene Patton 11:30am-12:30pm Feel free to bring a lunch to eat on Irene's lovely back patio. 1188 Jewell Ave. Pacific Grove
- \* John OConnell 1:00-2:30pm 1697 Luzern St. Seaside



A *Laelia superbians alba* that Irene got as a division from the giant plant that Carol Easton had five years ago

**Upcoming Events**

**June**

**6/3 Monday 7PM COS June Meeting** at the Church

6/8 Saturday SCOS Greenhouse visit and COS meetup

**July**

**There is no regular COS meeting in July**

7/27-28 Orchids in the Park San Francisco, Golden Gate Park

## Happenings at the May Meeting

We met at the church at 7 pm with full daylight. We had about 25 in attendance. Our guest speaker, Bob Hamilton, grows *Oncidiums* (he uses the former name *Ondontoglossum*) in Pacifica with his partner, John Leathers who grows *Masdevalias*. Their collection is South American high elevation Andean orchids. He treated us to a slide show which included an aerial view of the whole Andes mountain range from the south of Chile to the north of Colombia. All the ranges, tropical, desert and mountainous were seen from the air. We then had a history of the Victorian 19th century which included *Orchidmania*, the orchid craze which saw collecting from the wild into mostly the UK. The 19th century was the beginning of orchid hybridization as

a profession with the discovery of chromosomes. The invention of sheet glass meant building huge greenhouses supported by the enormous wealth of the British.

The plant opportunity table was bursting with flowering *Masdevalias* and *Draculas* and a couple of *Miltoniopsis*.

Show and tell was loaded with member grown flowering plants: many *Dendrobiums*, a tall *Paph*, a basket of *Sarcos*, *Angracum*, *Oncidiums*, an *Encyclia* hybrid, an *Epi Catt* and Carolyn's *Cattleya mendelii* with 6 huge flowers.

Irene demonstrated repotting a *Paph* into sphagnum moss before the meeting.

Refreshments were served, we put the room in order and adjourned by 9 PM.

**Irene Patton**

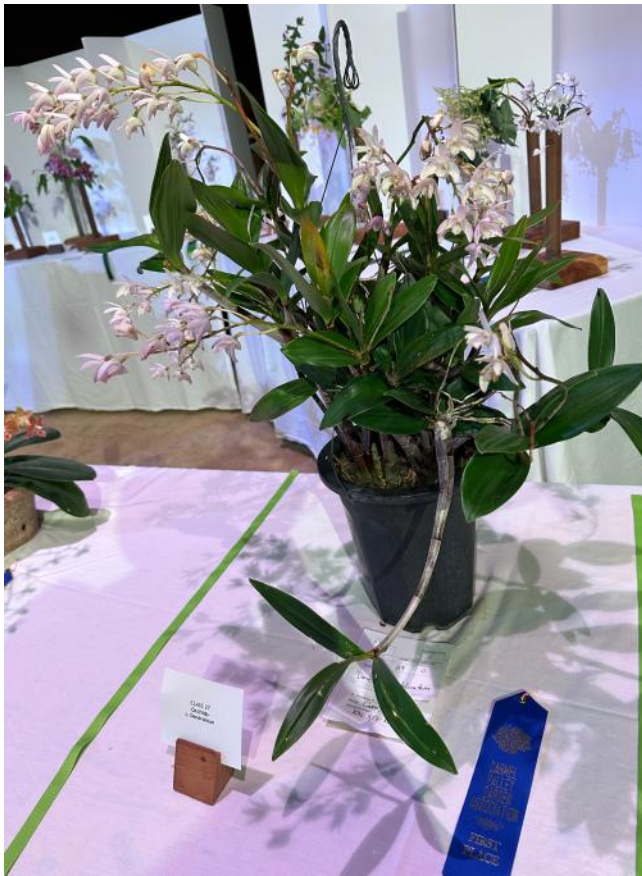


**Left:** Paph. China moon X Paph. Liberty Taiwan, grown by Carolyn Salmon

**Right:** A *Epiphyllum* hybrid grown by Chris Thomas who, like most of us, grew it from a cutting. She said it never bloomed in Idaho but it seems to like it a lot better here



## COS Entries at the Carmel Valley Garden Show



**Top Left:** Carolyn's *Dendrobium x delicatum*, **Right:** Irene's *Cymbidium*, both blue ribbon winners

**Bottom:** Richard Deming's cacti won several ribbons, **Right:** *Notocactus scopa*, **Left:** *Stenocactus multicostatus*

## COS Board Meeting May 22, 2024

The BOD met at Carolyn Salmon's house on May 22nd. Amanda Nixon called the meeting to order at 6 pm. All board members were present.

The Treasurer reported \$5,419.30 in the checking account with some bills left to be paid. We paid Bob Hamilton \$200 for the raffle table for the April meeting and took in \$198 for raffle tickets. The Treasurer also reminded us that there is a \$10 extra charge for those whose dues include mailed out Back Bulbs. We accepted the report with a big thanks to Janette.

Carolyn reported on future meetings: 2 speakers left for the year, John in June and Peter Lin in August. Peter has a variety of topics to speak on. He can ship a plant table for us. He is offering 10% off for our purchases on his website: [www.diamondorchids.com](http://www.diamondorchids.com)

On June 8th the Santa Cruz Orchid Society will be visiting John and Carolyn's greenhouses and Irene's lath house. They will start at 10:30 at Carolyn's, go to Irene's at 11:30 and have a brown bag lunch. Then on to John's greenhouse in Seaside. We are inviting our own members to join in at any time to enjoy meeting the members from Santa Cruz. We expect about 15 of them.

We discussed the plant table for the June meeting and hope that our members will bring plants and related items such as cuttings, fertilizers, succulents and epiphyllums.

For July, tours of greenhouses out of our



Another CVGS ribbon winner, a Paph grown by Rudy Patton

area will be coordinated by Chris. We are hoping some of the greenhouse growers will have plants to sell. Orchids in the Park is also at the end of July in San Francisco and we are working on options to have members attend.

We discussed having a repotting demo before or during the meetings as was done in years past; and/or a problem solving bring-your-orchid for the Plant Doctor or for Show and Tell to incorporate problem plants. Chris will try to do a potting demo and Irene offered to help her for the June meeting. Anyone interested should come early to the church, about 6:30.

A committee was formed to decide about meeting times for 2025. Carolyn, Chris, and Anna will be on the committee.

Kathie reviewed the Fall Market from last year and gave good reports on all

areas. It was agreed we need to get more people into our show. Marketing will work hard on this with new banners to be made and more banners put up in key areas. The Vendors want to come back; there will be no judging this year. We all agreed the food was good. We need a better count of people and how they hear of the show. Ikebana needs to have their demo inside the building and needs better lighting. We agreed to keep the church updated on the space we will use. More demos were requested.

Janette reminded us that if we participate in Show and Tell we get a raffle ticket for the table. Photos of large plants are good to show as well if they are in bloom and cannot be brought in.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at Irene Patton's house in Pacific Grove at 5 pm on June 26th, Wednesday. We hope to be able to meet outside.

A special plea goes out to our members to start growing plants for sale at the Society table at the November Market. We always have requests for more plants than we can provide. The dates for the November Market are November 9th and 10th this year. A round of applause was given to Kathie and last year's market.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

**Submitted by irene Patton**

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

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Couple	<b>\$50</b> _____
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